Come and get us, Abu Sayyaf dares US

STORY ON PAGE A2

P15

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS

OCTOBER 7, 2001 ★ 68 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 301

IN *Sunday* LIFESTYLE

SOTTO

- Is it the Pinoy's style to have insurance? /C1
- Inno Sotto's must-go fashion event of the year /D1
- 'Rent' director evicts audience /E1

Taliban units dig into high ground

CHAMAN, Pakistan—Taliban soldiers in large numbers have taken heavy weapons into the mountains near Kandahar to await any American assault, according to Afghan travelers reaching this border post on Friday.

Both Taliban sympathizers and others who denounce the fundamentalist government concurred that convoys had left the city, which lies

TALIBAN UNITS/ A18

Taliban surrounded

World counts the hours to US military strikes

ISLAMABAD—Nearly four weeks after the devastating attacks on America, Washington has virtually completed its military and diplomatic preparations for its war on terrorism, leaving the world counting the days—or hours—to US strikes against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who visited Pakistan on Friday, said the US-led international coalition against terrorism was building "a trap set around Afghanistan."

Despite rhetoric from US President George W. Bush of a "new war" on terrorism, all signs point to a first-phase assault using commandos backed with air power—a discrete conflict in a few harsh mountain areas rather than a high-publicity, all-out offensive on all of Afghanistan.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was due back in Washington on Saturday after a whirlwind four-day tour of Middle East and Central Asian countries that culminated with 1,000 US infantry troops being sent to Uzbekistan which lies on Afghanistan's northern border.

Another 35,000 US military personnel, 350 aircraft and three aircraft carrier battle groups are now within striking distance, with support from some British and Australian forces. Commandos are reportedly already in Afghanistan.

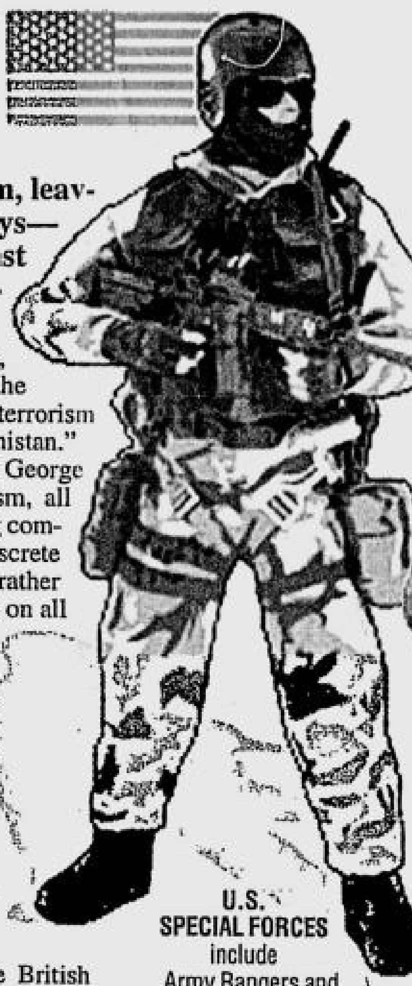
The buildup has taken place since Washington accused Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network, both based in Afghanistan, of masterminding the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington that left 5,500 people dead or missing.

Afghanistan's Taliban ruling militia has refused to hand over Bin Laden, making it also a US target.

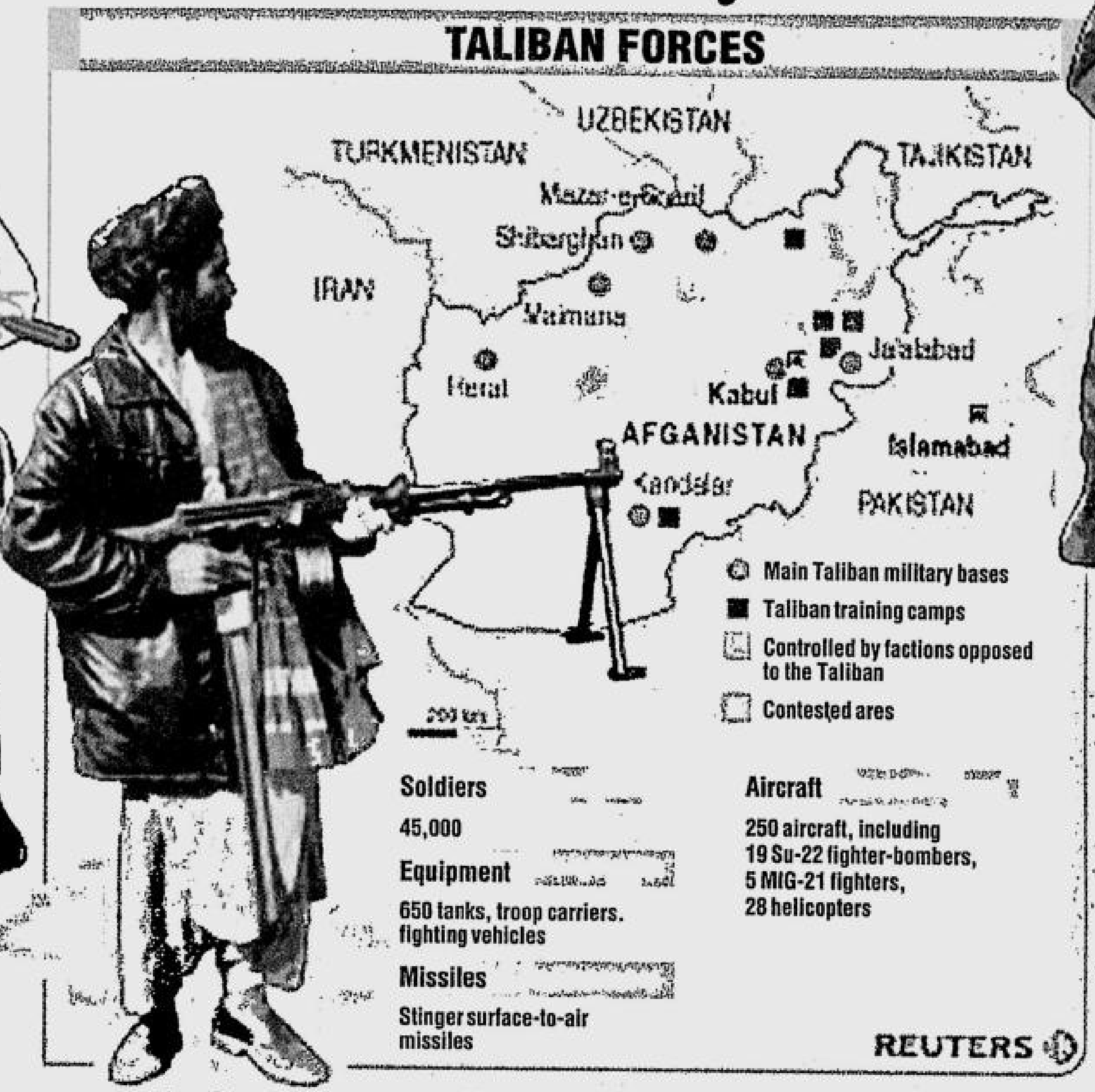
On Friday, the Taliban reiterated its plea for Washington to negotiate and promised to put Bin Laden on trial if sufficient evidence of his guilt was supplied. Washington again rejected the plea.

"I don't think that the United States is going to have, you know, a massive strike. But this is my personal view," Georgian President Eduard

TALIBAN/ A18



U.S. SPECIAL FORCES include Army Rangers and 'Green Berets', Navy SEALs, Special Aviation Regiment 'Night Stakers', Marine Force Recon, and Delta Force counterterrorist unit



TALIBAN FORCES
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TAJIKISTAN
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Kandahar
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Contested ares
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Soldiers
45,000
Equipment
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Missiles
Stinger surface-to-air missiles
Aircraft
250 aircraft, including 19 Su-22 fighter-bombers, 5 MIG-21 fighters, 28 helicopters

REUTERS

BRITISH SPECIAL FORCES include Special Air Service, Special Boat Service, Parachute Regiment, Royal Marines Commandos, and Pathfinders

GRIHALVO: Case of mistaken identity

He spent his last hours with strangers

By Rufino L. Gonzales II

NEW YORK—Due to a body mix-up, Ramon Grihalvo spent his last moments with total strangers.

He was brought in alive to a hospital on Sept. 12 from the ruins of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York. He died on Sept. 15. The last three days of his life, a family stayed close by his side. But it was not his own.

It took a while, but Philippine Consulate officials and his family have finally identified the body of Grihalvo.

An official of the New York Presbyterian Hospital had turned over to Ramon Grihalvo's family the body of another man and insisted that it was he. It was only after the third week of September that the "mix-up" was corrected and Ramon's body was identified by his brother Aurelio through his dental records—and his feet.

Ramon Grihalvo, who worked for the Blue Cross Blue Shield on the 24th floor of World Trade Center 1, was taken alive to the New York Presbyterian Hospital on the same day of the attack.

This was how members of Ramon's family related their ordeal:

On the afternoon of Sept. 12, a hospital official informed them that Ramon had been admitted with severe burns and in a state of cardiopulmonary arrest.

The official also said that before Ramon was sedated and incubated, he managed to give his name and phone number.

Ramon's son Raymond and brother

HE SPENT/ A18

Thanks to her, the poor need not worry about flu

By Christian V. Esguerra

WHILE Metro Manila was in a flurry last week over the large number of flu cases in Catholic schools, poor families were not worried for their children.

They were confident that they could deal with the flu and other common ailments, courtesy of the training they got from Dr. Mita Pardo de Tavera and her group of health workers.

Through her Alay Kapwa Kilusang Pangkalusugan (Akap) organization, the 81-year-old doctor, who was social welfare secretary during the Aquino administration, has been teaching preventive medicine to poor communities nationwide for the past 30 years.

Mita herself was unfazed by the large number of flu cases, which many people thought was already bioterrorism.

"Flu is seasonal," she told the Inquirer during a recent interview. "Given the unpredictable weather, I'm not surprised at all that there were somehow (many cases)."

But even if the virus spread in depressed areas, she knew residents, especially those who had attended her training sessions, were prepared.

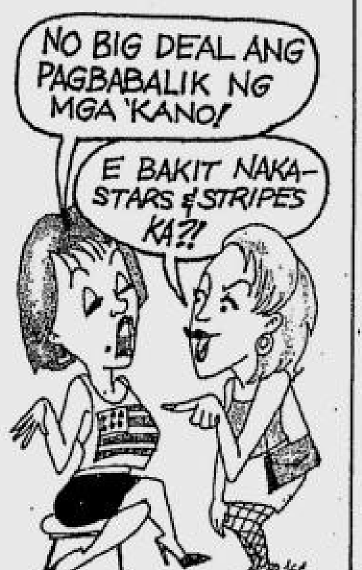
Mita had been training thousands of poor residents in many communities, especially those in far-flung provinces where there is little access to hospitals, to become "medical consultants" or health workers.

The health workers educate their neighbors on common ailments like diarrhea, colds, flu, dengue, malaria and tuberculosis.

Mita has devoted nearly 60 years of her life to curing and, more importantly, educating the poor.

Years after graduating from the College of Medicine of the Univer-

THANKS/ A18



NO BIG DEAL ANG PAGBABALIK NG MGA 'KANO!
E BAKIT NAKA-STARS & STRIPES KA?!

Thrill gone for arriving US troops

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—There will be no welcome streamers, no bars to renovate in Fields Avenue, the red light district during close to a hundred years that this city played host to the US military. Neither are there special shows planned for the return of American troops to the former Clark Air Base.

THRILL/ A18

EDWIN BACASMAS

FOR A CHANGE

A respite from war and rumors of war for President Macapagal is the Shirley Halili-Cruz School of Dance which won all the first prizes at the Commonwealth Society of Teachers of Dancing 3rd Asia Pacific Dance competition recently held in Singapore and the Festival of Dance in Australia.

What ever happened to the 'star' witness?

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

ANGELO "Ador" Mawanay is now selling T-shirts bearing anti-crime messages to put food on the table.

It's a dramatic shift from the romance of his previous lifestyle, where, by his own account, he received "allowances" for delivering *shabu* (methamphetamine hydrochloride) to big-time drug lords and doing surveillance jobs on prospective kidnap victims.

But since his revelations in June about the nefarious activities of a crime syndicate allegedly led by then Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force chief Panfilo Lacson, Mawanay has been compelled to abandon the life he considered normal.

As Mawanay now knows it, "normal" is killing time in a safe house in Camp Aguinaldo, inside the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines compound.

Going out is obviously a big risk, and Isafp agents escort Mawanay whenever he has to leave the camp. Still, he thanks Isafp chief Col. Victor Corpus that he is alive.

The T-shirts come from an anonymous supporter, Mawanay claimed in an interview yesterday at the Inquirer office.

He said he received a text message on his mobile phone from an unfamiliar sender, asking whether he would be interested in "donations," which turned out to be T-shirts with

WHAT/ A18

NAGHAHANAP PA NG AWAY 'TO!

Abu Sayyaf to US: Come and get us

THE ABU Sayyaf bandit group, which has links to Saudi-born dissident Osama bin Laden, has dared United States military forces to come to the Philippines and fight.

Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya said in an interview aired over dzRH radio his group was not afraid of American military power, and that it had access to US military equipment through the Philippine Army.

"We have long wanted to fight the US. If they want the problem of the Philippines to worsen, let them come here. We are not afraid of them," Sabaya said, according to a Reuters report.

The United States has listed the Abu Sayyaf as one of the groups with links to Bin Laden and his al-Qaida network, whom American officials blame for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington DC.

The radio interview was the first time Abu Sabaya spoke to the media since the Sept. 11 attacks. He did not refer to them, however.

The Abu Sayyaf has been holding two Americans and 16 Filipinos hostage for months on Basilan island.

Crackdown

In July, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered an intensified crackdown on the group and gave the military and police wider powers to arrest people suspected of helping them.

The President also released more money for the modernization of the Philippine armed forces, which gets some of its equipment from the United States.

Abu Sabaya said his men were able to get their hands on some of the US equipment supplied to the Philippine armed forces and he called on the United States to supply more.

"It is to our advantage the US is giving supplies—those high-tech equipment to the (Philippine) military—because we are being supplied by the US, too," he said.

"We are getting those (supplies), those night-vision (devices) that they have... all of the supplies given by the US, we get a part of that too," Sabaya said.

"Tell them to increase their supplies so we can get a share," he added.

It was not clear if the US equipment Sabaya was referring to had been seized from the Philippine armed forces during clashes or were acquired through other means, the radio station said.

Yesterday, the Philippine military asked the US for help in identifying skeletal remains believed to be those of a third American hostage which were found Friday, Agence France Presse reported.

Sobero's bones

Brig. Gen. Glicerio Sua said the bones believed to be that of Californian Guillermo Sobero, whom the bandits claimed to have beheaded in June, were to be taken from Basilan to Zamboanga City later Saturday.

"We cannot determine whose remains these are," said Sua, head of a task force tracking the Abu Sayyaf.

He said the Philippine military was asking the US Embassy in Manila to send experts to verify if the remains unearthed from a shallow grave were indeed Sobero's.

Col. Hermogenes Esperon, a commander in Basilan, said "based on witness accounts, we have reason to believe it is Sobero."

Abu Sayyaf members who had surrendered to the military led soldiers to the shallow grave.

"There is a big probability the bones belonged to Sobero because the surrenderees were with the Abu Sayyaf group that executed him," Esperon said.

Independence Day gift

US Embassy spokesperson Karen Kelley said it was standard practice for Washington to send representatives in such cases but she could not say when the American forensics experts would arrive.

Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya said in June the group beheaded Sobero, a US citizen of Peruvian descent, as an "Independence Day gift" to the Philippine government.

The military has since presumed him dead, although it maintained it had no independent evidence to back this up.

Sobero was among three Americans and 17 Filipinos seized by the Abu Sayyaf and taken to Basilan in May, where most of the Filipinos escaped or were released allegedly for ransom.

The rebels then seized more local hostages in Basilan.

At least a dozen of the Filipino hostages taken in Basilan were beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf in retaliation for the military crackdown launched by President Macapagal.

The discovery of Sobero's body came as the US State Department repeated its concern for the safety of Americans in the Philippines.

On Thursday, the Abu Sayyaf attacked eight barangays in Isabela City, Basilan's capital, with mortar fire, wounding four persons including a soldier.

Mortar attack

Malacañang yesterday dismissed the attack as a diversionary tactic to derail the military's pursuit of the bandits.

"The mortar attack was not an offensive but a defensive action to divert the military which is launching a massive offensive operation," National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said yesterday.

Golez said, "Abu Sabaya and the rest of the bandit forces are getting demoralized by the non-stop offensive launched by the military."

Golez said that when President Macapagal ordered the intensified crackdown on July 13, the Abu Sayyaf had a strength of more than 1,100 men.

Now, he said, the group is down to 850 members. He said 80 members have been killed, 180 captured, 90 surrendered and there have been some desertions.

Golez said this was based on information given to the President in a briefing Friday by Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu. *Juliet L. Javellana, with Reuters and AFP reports*

US travel advisory surprises Palace

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson expressed surprise at the new US State Department warning to US citizens of heightened risks in traveling to the Philippines.

"We have to clarify that," Macapagal's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said, reacting to the State Department warning on Friday and the subsequent withdrawal of US officials and government contractors from parts of the southern Philippines where Muslim rebels are believed active.

Tiglao said that just before the warnings were issued, US Embassy representatives told him that no travel advisory on the Philippines would be issued in the near future.

He did not say if the advisory would have any negative effect on tourism or investment here.

"A number of recent security-related incidents highlight the danger of travel in the Philippines," the State Department said in the statement warning that the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in Washington and New York might increase risks for Americans overseas.

Two Americans are still among the 18 hostages being held by Muslim guerrillas in the southern island of Basilan. A body believed to belong to a third American hostage, Californian Guillermo Sobero, was found in a shallow grave on Friday. **AFP**

GOLEZ

TIGLAO

Tiglao hurting in Palace turf war with Golez

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

THE TURF war between presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao and National Security Adviser Roilo Golez is far from over.

Tiglao, according to a Malacañang official, was hurting over Golez's announcement on Wednesday that he (Golez) had been named official spokesperson for all matters concerning terrorism.

When asked later about Golez's announcement, Tiglao said he was not aware of such appointment.

"There was just an agreement (during the Cabinet meeting) that when there are questions about terrorism, these should be directed to Golez. But there was no official designation. Golez just invented the title for himself," said an official close to Tiglao.

But Golez yesterday produced a memorandum signed by Presidential Management Staff Chief Victoria Garchitorena informing all Cabinet members of Golez's designation. The memo was dated Oct. 2, the day the 30th Cabinet meeting was held.

"In the course of the discussion, the need for the Cabinet to speak with one voice to prevent confusion among the public was stressed," Garchitorena said.

"In view thereof, the President designated the National Security Adviser to be the official spokesman on matters regarding terrorism. The Cabinet members shall refer to him all questions regarding terrorism," the memo said.

Tiglao yesterday denied he did not show up during the President's press conference last Friday, an event which he moderates, because he felt slighted by Golez's announcement of his designation without him knowing about it.

"Don't say I am slighted. I am slighted with the INQUIRER," he said, referring to an INQUIRER report about it.

But Tiglao admitted that he and Golez have not spoken to each other since the Wednesday incident.

President Macapagal-Arroyo clarified the issue when reporters asked her after the "Alerta Labandera" assembly of laundry women at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium yesterday.

"We talked about it in the Cabinet. He (Tiglao) was there. He knew about it," she said.

But the President said Golez and Tiglao should coordinate with each other in the performance of their jobs.

"But it's between the two of them. It was supposed to be the two of them, that was the agreement. Because Roi (Golez) is the one who knows on a daily basis what can be revealed and what cannot. That's why they have to work together. It's not as if the job of spokesperson was transferred to Roi," the President said.

But an official close to Tiglao said the presidential spokesperson did not know that Golez was making the announcement without informing him.

"He did not see it coming," the official said.

Golez included this in his press statement on Wednesday about the briefing given by US officials to the President.

Based on Golez's statement, the Office of the Press Secretary issued a press statement announcing Golez's designation. But the press release was promptly withdrawn.

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Customs official sacked for faking school record

By Michael Lim Ubac

FOR FALSELY claiming to be a college graduate, a ranking official of the Bureau of Customs has been ordered dismissed from the service by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

Virgilio M. Danao, director of BOC Enforcement and Security Services, was promoted five times since 1978 on the strength of spurious credentials. He was found guilty of dishonesty by the Ombudsman Administrative Adjudication Bureau (AAB).

"In view of the foregoing premises this office finds respondent Danao guilty of dishonesty and the penalty of dismissal from the service is hereby imposed," Desierto said in a Sept. 19 decision.

AAB Director Mary Susan Guillermo recommended Danao's dismissal after he was found to have falsely claimed that he had a business degree from the Manila Central University.

Danao had made the claim in the personal data sheets he had been submitting to the BOC since 1978.

The false information allowed him to be promoted several times—to customs police captain in 1978, customs police mayor in 1984, customs police area supervisor in 1991, special police assistant chief in 1999 and, finally, Director III, also in 1999.

A check with the MCU registrar's office showed Danao did not finish the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration course.

Danao's claim that he had a business degree was very "material to his appointment and subsequent promotions at the BOC, such that without it, he could not have been appointed or promoted," Guillermo said.

The Civil Service Commission's Revised Qualification Standards requires a Director III, with salary grade 27 and level 3, to have a bachelor's degree as well as three years of supervisory experience and a career service executive eligibility.

The case stemmed from a complaint filed last year by BOC special agent 1 Roseller Rojas.

For his part, Danao said the case "was pure and simple harassment by the complainant (Rojas), whose suspension I had recommended on March 16, 2000 for alleged misconduct and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service."

Danao argued that assuming he had made the false claim, "he could not be held for dishonesty since a defect in his character was not connected to his office and must be restricted to something of a substantial nature directly affecting his duties to the public."

Guillermo said, however, "prudence dictates that he should have written 'undergraduate' or the number of units he had earned toward a business degree" in the data forms.

Militants vow to oppose US 'terrorism'

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

MILITANTS yesterday vowed to revive the intensity of the protest against the US presence in the country a decade ago that led to the ouster of American military bases.

The fisher folk group Pamalakaya said it would mount a "second grand homecoming" in the form of mammoth protests, along with its allied groups led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, to oppose US military troopers' use of Philippine airspace and facilities.

On Sept. 16, 1991, the Philippine Senate rejected the renewal of the RP-US military bases agreement following strong public opinion.

In a statement, Pamalakaya urged patriotic Filipinos to rise above the occasion and stop the Bush and Macapagal-Arroyo administrations from pursuing "a senseless and stupid war" at the expense of the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"Let's go back to the capital and flood the streets with gigantic anti-senseless and stupid war protests to show strong opposition to the return of American terrorists and mercenaries in the country," the group said.

Feuding claimants won't be consulted on compromise bill

By Blanche S. Rivera

APPARENTLY resigned to the irreconcilable differences of the two factions of Marcos claimants, the Presidential Commission on Good Government said it would no longer gather the two groups to undertake a joint legislative effort.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza Jr. said he would submit to Malacañang the draft of a bill seeking to indemnify the rights abuse victims from the proceeds of seized ill-gotten wealth.

He said he would not consult with the Claimants 1081 and the Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at para sa Amnestiya (Selda) for a joint draft as planned earlier.

The PCGG version did not specify a certain amount for the claimants' compensation but Carranza said the PCGG would not allow the Marcoses to lay any claim to the government's efforts to indemnify the victims.

Carranza said he suggested that Akbayan Rep. Loretta Anne Rosales and Bayan Rep. Satur Ocampo instead meet as representatives of the two groups to settle the legislative agenda for their compensation.

"I suggested that they file their respective bills then the PCGG will submit to Malacañang our version of the bill that would allow for the compensation of the victims," Carranza said, "because that way, all points can be discussed in Congress."

He said his "impression" was that Ocampo and Rosales were "amenable to meeting, if not anyone else, then each other."

The PCGG had earlier said it would pursue the reconciliation of the Selda and Claimants 1081 so that the new PCGG administration and the two camps could work for their indemnification.

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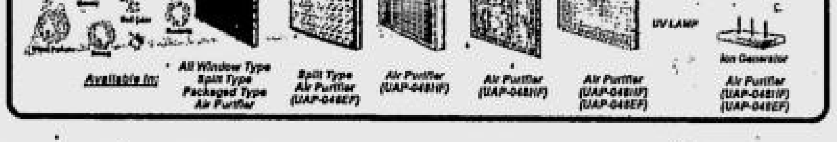
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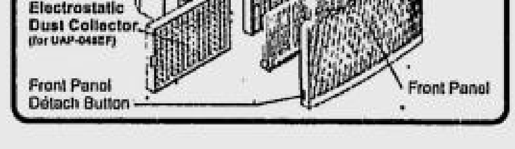
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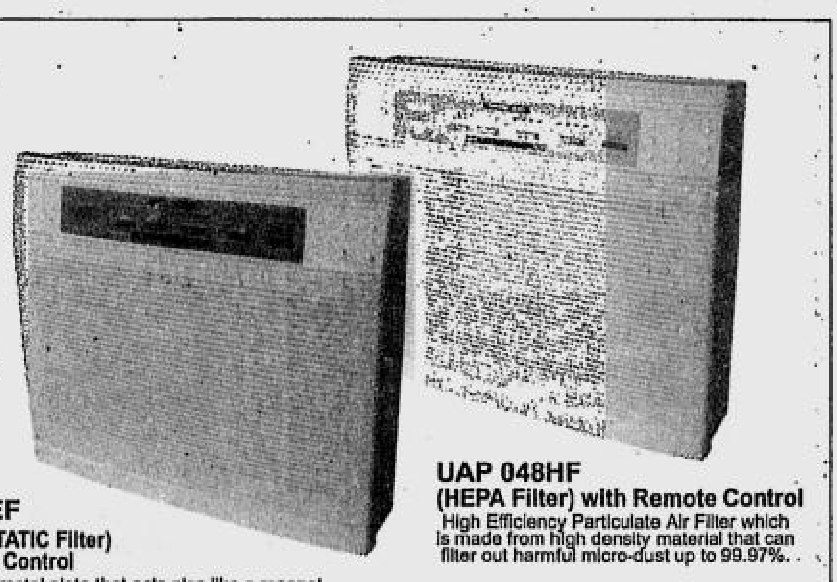

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Pimentel allays Gloria's fears of whitewash

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA
AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

SENATE Minority Floor Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. dispelled yesterday President Macapagal-Arroyo's fears of a witch-hunt with the opposition's investigation into her husband's alleged involvement in an anomaly at the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Pimentel, however, scored the President's decision to ask Ombudsman Aniano Disierto to investigate First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, saying this could be an administration "ploy" to derail the Senate's own investigation.

"I want to disabuse the mind of the President that the investigation will turn into a witch-hunt. We will give him (Mr. Arroyo) all the opportunity to bring out the truth," Pimentel said at his weekly press forum at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City yesterday.

"We will not allow members of the opposition to harass Mr. Arroyo. That is not our purpose. We want to provide him with a venue to articulate the truth," he added.

In a privilege speech on Tuesday, Sen. Panfilo Lacson accused Arroyo of dipping into the PCSO's P250-million advertising fund and using it to help the campaigns of four administration senatorial candidates in the last elections.

Pimentel said opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara would head one of the committees investigating the alleged anomaly, while administration Sen. Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan would head the other committee.

He explained the matter was referred to Angara's committee on constitutional amendment and revision of laws because senators want to review the PCSO charter and to "tighten up" the broad powers of the PCSO board.

"We assure Mike this is not a witch-hunt (intended) to embarrass him or the President," Pimentel said.

Pimentel, however, criticized Ms Macapagal for ordering the Ombudsman to get into the picture.

"This could be an attempt to exclude the Senate from (investigating) this issue," Pimentel said.

He reminded the administration the Office of the Ombudsman is an independent constitutional body that should not be used to clean up the messes of erring officials.

"The Ombudsman is not a tool for the President to (use to) cleanse anyone accused of wrongdoing," Pimentel said.

He also took issue with yesterday's INQUIRER'S editorial which, he said, suggested that he did not deliver the privilege speech on the PCSO anomaly because he saw no evidence to back up the accusation against Arroyo.

Pimentel said he did not immediately come out with an exposé because whistle-blower Robert Rivero, former PCSO media consultant, had promised to deliver more evidence and produce another witness.

He said he also backed out after hearing that someone was trying to discourage Rivero from coming out.

Pimentel added that he learned that those who wanted to come out with the exposé had first approached Angara before they came to him.

"(Lacson) was their last card. They went on some sort of forum shopping," he said.

Angara said the committee hearings will be "fair and transparent."

"There will be no partisanship, no emotional outbursts, no prejudgment of the issues. I will come to the committee with an open mind, biased toward what is true," he said in a statement.

Sen. Joker Arroyo earlier tagged Angara as the "puppeteer" who cooked up the PCSO issue—using Rivero and Lacson—to hit at Malacañang.

Pimentel said he had a talk with Angara Friday and the latter denied hatching a plot to unseat him as minority leader for his decision not to deliver the speech on the alleged scam.

"Actually, when the time comes, what we agreed upon, I will fulfill it. I have no inhibitions," Pimentel said. "If the time comes we should change minority leader for whatever reason, I will agree with that."

He also denied rumors that he had seen President Macapagal on Friday and she had offered him a political proposal relative to the 2004elections.

As this developed, Lacson yesterday hit the Palace for its alleged "twisted understanding of fair treatment."

In a statement, he lamented that while Malacañang expressed fears of a witch-hunt in the Mike Arroyo investigation, administration senators had no qualms about subjecting him to the same treatment in the investigations of his alleged crimes.

At the same time, the PCSO denied yesterday allegations that the First Gentleman had misused the public relations and advertising budget of the agency.

In a press statement, the PCSO said there never was an instance since President Macapagal took office on Jan. 20, that Mr. Arroyo interfered with the agency.

Ed M. Malay, PCSO media consultant, said the P250 million was the agency's annual PR and advertising budget for 2001, the allocation of which had been planned in October last year.

This meant the P250 million was no longer intact after a substantial portion had already been appropriated and spent by the time the May 14 elections came around, Malay said.

Press usec 'negative' in drug test

IN RESPONSE to Robert Rivero's allegation of drug use, Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco yesterday said he submitted himself to a drug test and that it showed negative for illegal drugs.

In a press statement, Capco said the test was conducted by the Asia-Pacific Diagnostic Services, a clinic licensed and accredited by the Dangerous Drugs Board.

A certain Dr. Bernardo Regalado certified the result of the drug test.

"I believe this test decisively disproves Mr. Rivero's accusations. I hope we can let this issue rest, once and for all," Capco said in his statement.

Rivero, who has accused First Gentleman Miguel Arroyo of misusing funds of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, had also alleged in a radio interview on Friday that Capco was a shabu user.

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Reward offered for auditor's killer

BY LEONCIO BALBIN JR.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—The provincial government of Ilocos Sur is offering P200,000 to anyone who can provide information on the Thursday killing of provincial auditor Agustin Chan Jr. and his driver Alex Racacho.

"We are doing this to expedite the solution of the ambush-slaying," said Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano.

The provincial police, National Bureau of Investigation and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group have formed Task Force Chan to pursue the killers.

Supt. Fidel Cimatu, Ilocos Sur police director, said they had traced in Ilocos Sur one vehicle with plate number ending in "118," which witnesses said they saw on the plate of the vehicle used in the killing.

Police are looking into three angles—the alleged anomalies in the provincial government recently unearthed by the Commission on Audit, sabotage and personal grudge.

The killing occurred a day after the anniversary celebration of former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's exposé against deposed President Joseph Estrada.

The Save Ilocos Sur Alliance (Sisa), which led the anti-Singson protests here on Wednesday, had been raising the alleged anomalies committed during Singson's term and which they said were continuing under Savellano's watch.

"We believe that those behind the ambush have something to do with Chan's job as provincial auditor," Sisa president Nestor Seguismundo told the INQUIRER.

Seguismundo said Chan prepared many of the COA reports which Sisa was now using in exposing the alleged anomalies.

But Vice Gov. Jeremias Singson, brother of the former governor, said Sisa's claims of corruption were "all false." He said some opposition groups were just using Chan's murder to their advantage.

Seguismundo called on COA Chair Guillermo Carague to look deeper into the killing, saying it was "not just an attack against (Chan's) person but also an attack on the agency that he represents."

Chan testified last year at the Senate blue ribbon committee hearing regarding the disbursements of tobacco excise taxes in Ilocos Sur.

Then Governor Singson claimed that P130 million of the P170 million cash advance from the excise taxes was given to Estrada.

In a text message sent to Bombo Radyo-Vigan anchor Arlon Serdenia, the Alfredo Cesar Command of the New People's Army expressed willingness to "help solve the case of Mr. Chan."

In Baguio City, close friends of Chan said he told them that his life was in danger. They also said he was "jittery" shortly before his death.

Chan's remains were taken to his house in Baguio on Friday. He is survived by his wife Evelyn and four children. ***With a report from Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Laundrywomen rally behind Gloria Labandera

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

EMBATTLED by new allegations of corruption against her husband, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday basked in the admiration of laundrywomen who held their first general assembly at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium yesterday.

Hundreds of members of "Alerta Labandera" proclaimed their loyalty to the President in a parade and song and dance number. The participants, representing poor women from eight cities in the metropolis, wore a red checkered apron with a heart-shape logo with the President's face surrounded by big suds. "*Lab kami ni Gloria*," the logo proclaims.

The movement, organized by the Ginintuan Foundation which is composed of the President's classmates from Assumption, was dubbed "A movement of cleansing, hope and renewal."

The movement was organized after the supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada held Edsa 3 where they sang the "Gloria Labandera" ditty to insult Ms Macapagal.

But the President said she was not offended at all and declared she is the proud granddaughter of a laundrywoman. She said her paternal grand mother washed clothes to augment the income of the family which produced President Diosdado Macapagal.

During the assembly, Unilever Phils. presented the President with the presidential edition of its laundry detergent named "Gloria: Apo ng Labandera."

The soap, however, would not be sold in the market but given to members of the Alerta Labandera movement.

During the luncheon meeting, where the President sampled the famous *balut* of Navotas, the women sang their new theme song—Alerta Labandera—which was adapted from a composition used to entice volunteers to the Katipunan movement in 1896.

In her speech, the President asked the women not to be ashamed of their job as laundrywomen. She said it is a decent job they should be proud of.

What is important, she said, is that they are earning an honest living.

UN vows support for local autonomy

THE UNITED Nations has pledged to support the Philippine government's efforts to encourage decentralization and local autonomy in order to promote good and effective governance.

The UN's commitment came as the Department of Interior and Local Government leads the preparation for a congress on local governance on Oct. 9-10 in celebration of the Local Government Code anniversary which gave local government units (LGUs) more power to map out implementing rules and regulations on areas such as health, education, housing, tourism and other basic social services.

"The UN will continue to be an active partner of the Philippines in promoting good governance as a tool for development and a means for eradicating poverty," said Terence Jones, resident representative of the United Nations system and resident coordinator of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in a press statement.

The scheduled gathering of LGU officials, civil society, private sector and international development partners is the highlight of a series of pre and post activities under the Project 10.10.10. launched on Aug. 10 for the celebration of 10 years of local autonomy. President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to come to give the keynote address.

The project is designed to take stock of the experiences and lessons learned during the past decade of the law's implementation. According to officials of the DILG, the agency designated to lead the celebration, this event provides an opportunity to chart the direction of decentralization and local autonomy for the next 10 years.

The UN has been consistent with its support for decentralization efforts, starting with the UNDP, which has teamed up with local government agencies in a program designed to improve governance in the country and use it as a tool for alleviating.

Historical society conference slated

THE PHILIPPINE National Historical Society will hold its 22nd National Conference on Local and National History on Nov. 15-16 at Silliman University in Dumaguete City.

The conference theme is "A Century of Education in the Philippines: Implications for Nation Building," to commemorate the arrival of the Thomasites on Aug. 21, 1901, and the founding of Silliman University on Aug. 28 of the same year.

The conference is the major annual activity of the PNHS, established in 1941 and the oldest professional organization of historians in the country with nationwide membership.

Among the speakers lined up for the conference are Mila D. Aguilar (UP), Norma I. Alarcon (UST), Emmanuel F. Calairo (DLSU-Dasmariñas), Marya Svetlana T. Caniacho (UAP), Reynaldo T. Candido Jr. (UST). Ma. Eloisa P. de Castro (UST), Ma. Nela B. Florendo (UP Baguio), Francis A. Gealogo (Ateneo), Ma. Lina Nepomuceno-van Heugten (UP), Jose Victor Jimenez (TLSU), Ferdinand M. Lopez (UST), Ruth C. Mapanao (USM-Kabacan), Manuel MLC. Noche (UST), Cynthia Luz P. Rivera (UST), Delfin Tolentino Jr. (UP Baguio), Cristina E. Torres (UP Manila), and Stephen Henry S. Totanes (Ateneo).

Participants are requested to send their pre-registration forms as soon as possible. For inquiries, contact Prof. Bernardita R. Churchill, PNHS president and national convenor, at tel. 921-4575; telefax 926-1347; e-mail nitachurchill@hotmail.com or nitarc@csi.com.ph.

Edita D. Tolentino, 74

MRS. Edita Dadia Tolentino, Pro Eclesia Pontifice, died yesterday in Parañaque City. She was 74.

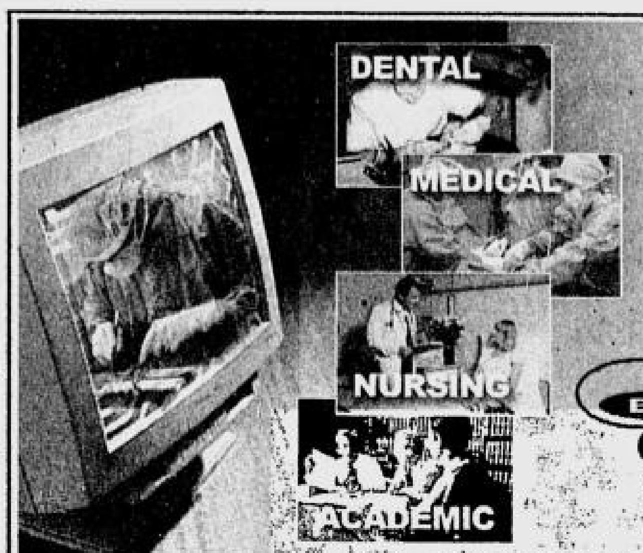
She is survived by her husband, Papal Night Commander Larry C. Tolentino, their only daughter Mary Anne, vice president of the Internet banking of the Bank of the Philippine Islands; her brother Tomas and Gracia Dadia, nephews, nieces, and other relatives.

Her remains lie at the Don Bosco Memorial Chapel on Pasay Road, Makati City. Mass will be celebrated by Apostolic Nuncio Most Rev. Antonio Franco at 5 p.m. today.

Bishop Nestor Cariño, secretary general of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, will celebrate Mass tonight at 8.

Interment is on Wednesday at the Heritage Park at Fort Bonifacio after the 10 a.m. Mass at the Don Bosco Parish Church.

Mrs. Tolentino was born on Sept. 20, 1927 in Tayabas, Quezon. A board topnotcher from the University of Sto. Tomas College of Pharmacy, she joined several pilgrimage to the Holy Land and shrines in Europe. She was awarded as Pro Eclesia ET Pontifice in a ceremony led by Jaime Cardinal Sin at Villa San Miguel.



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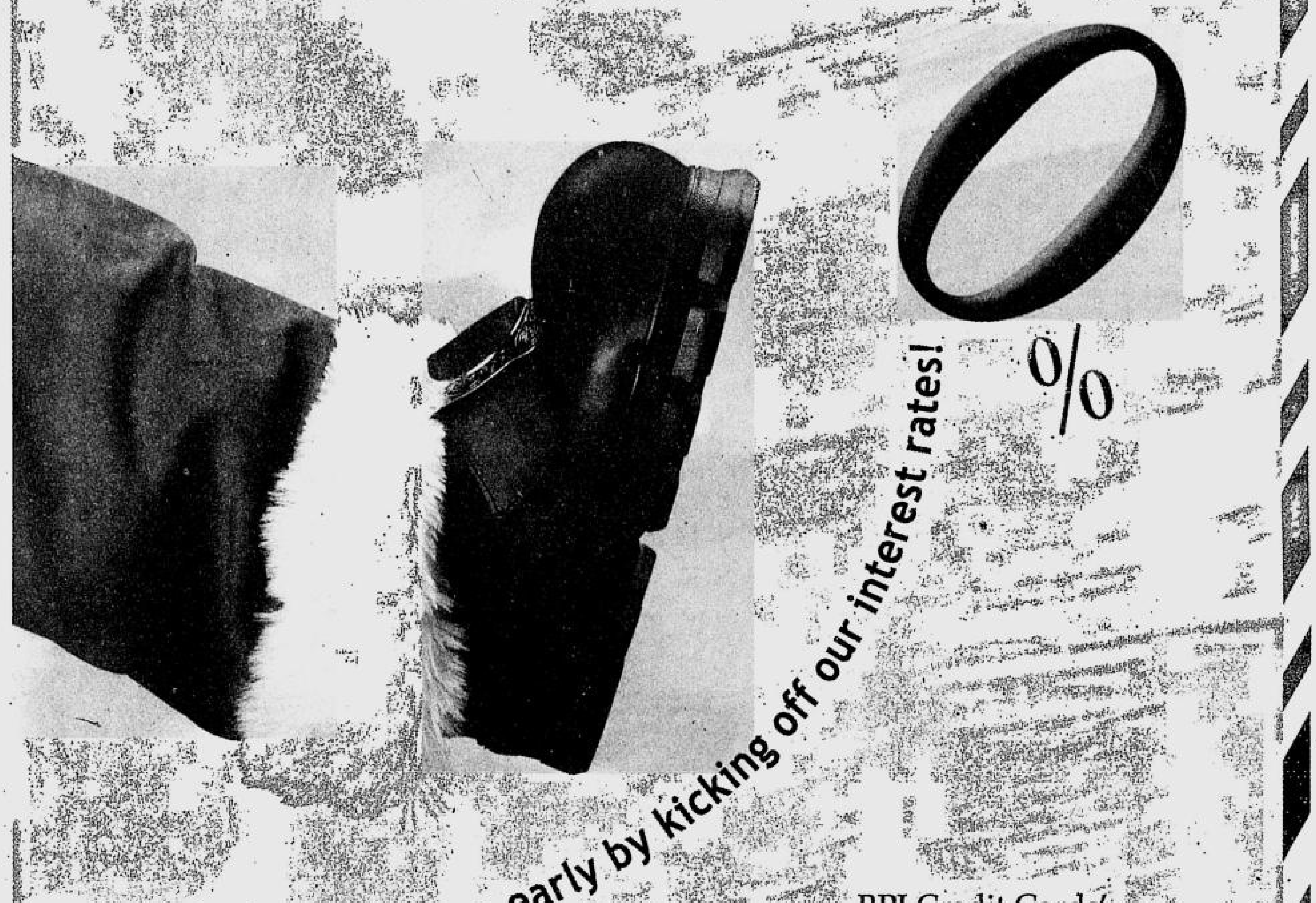
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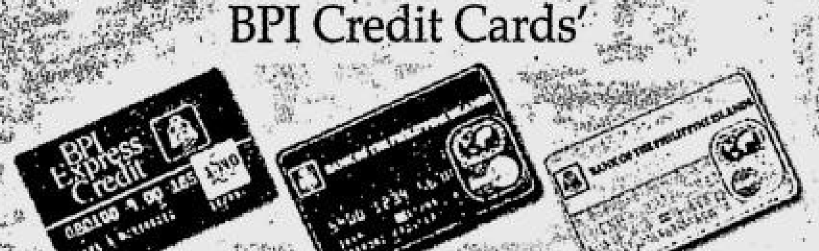

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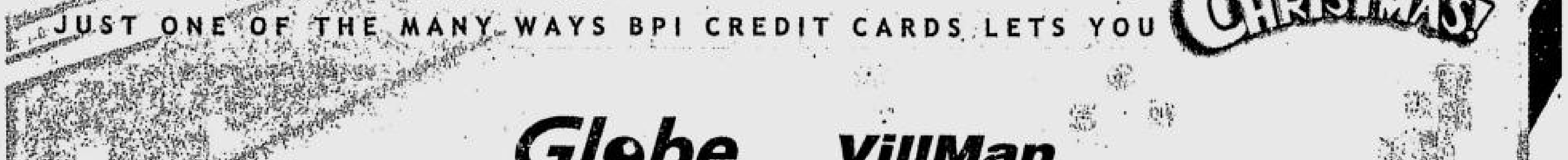

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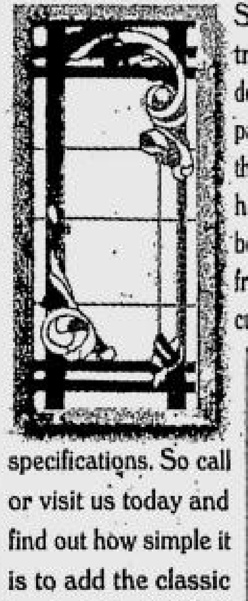

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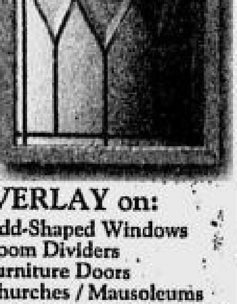

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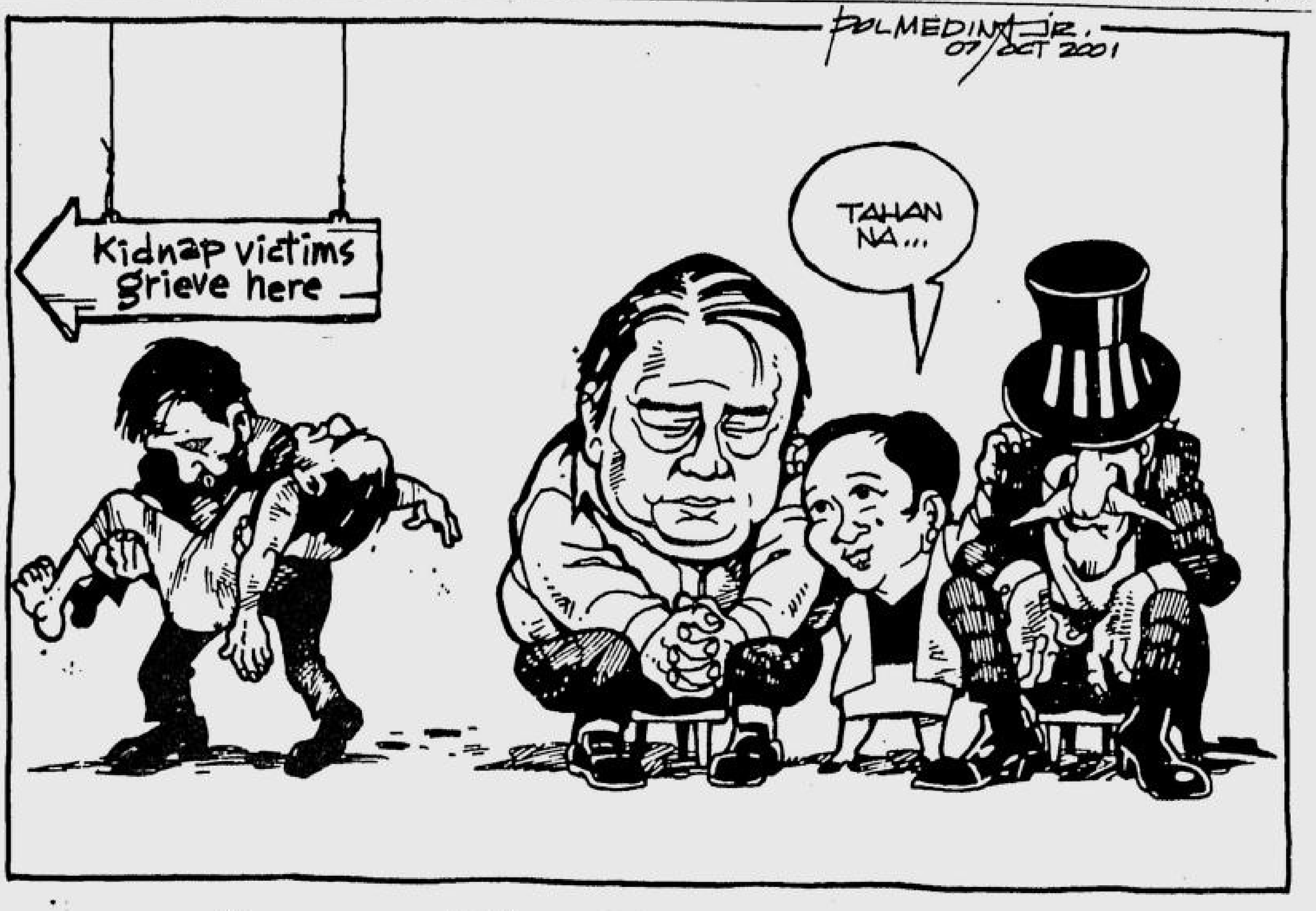
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Kidnap victims grieve here
TAHAN NA...

Compost city

SIX months after the garbage law was passed, Metro Manila is buried under tons of garbage. Garbage is recklessly strewn everywhere: on street corners, in canals and rivers, and even in trains that will perhaps export them to the provinces where country people can admire the mobility of Metro Manila trash. It is as if the law was enacted to mandate the spread of garbage, not its proper disposal.

EDITORIALS

It is not clear what the law is supposed to empower. Does it empower the Metro Manila Development Authority to act decisively on the garbage problem? Perhaps. But the MMDA's response has been anything but decisive. Like a garbage truck careening uncontrollably, the MMDA has identified one site after another to dump Metro Manila's garbage, without any of them really materializing beyond smelly pipe dreams.

It is true, of course, that RA 9008 "does not talk about dumpsites," as MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos is bright enough to note. The Ecological Waste Management Act, predictably enough, talks about segregation, and there lies the rub. Can Metro Manilans at this late stage of their development and bad habits learn segregation? And should that miracle happen, would garbage be entirely nullified, reduced to zero, made to vanish into thin air like the magician's rabbit?

It is hard to believe the claim of the zero-waste zealots. To be sure, there will always be trash that will resist the dynamic of waste nullification and will need areas where it can be dumped. Not surprisingly, none of the sprawling metropolises of the world have an absolute zero-waste management system. What most ecologically correct cities in the world have is a system that is trying to move toward zero waste. Metro Manila outdoes them all by proclaiming to be zero-waste now and without a moment wasted.

It is curious that RA 9008 came three years after the passage of the Clean Air Act, which bans garbage incineration. Thoughtful legislation would have at least made the two laws go in tandem. But our governance is notorious for arbitrariness and shortsightedness. It is ironic that a law that purports to clean up things has resulted in a new mess—or new waste—that could have been foreseen had our policy planners and legislators been less eager to jump on the political bandwagon of environmental causes.

Perhaps our overeagerness to own the bragging rights to having been the first zero-trash and zero-pollution country before international conferences on ecology, the most trendy advocacy nowadays, has done us in. In readily adopting just about any mantra of the ecological movement, without checking its applicability to local realities and our current stage of development, has our government fallen prey to faddishness?

New city

HAPPILY, there appears now a consensus on how best to deal with the problem. Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez and Abalos are considering using garbage for offshore reclamation. The proposal really came from R-II, the firm that reclaimed the Tondo foreshore area off Engineer Island and built the Smokey Mountain low-cost housing project. The Japanese International Cooperation Agency has studied the matter and finds it feasible.

The plan fulfills two requirements of a viable waste management problem.

First, it locates the dump within Metro Manila. This will ease the political tension that has arisen as a result of Metro Manila's arrogant dumping of its garbage outside, like San Mateo and Rodriguez towns in Rizal and Semirara Island in Iloilo. The residents are understandably against the transformation of their towns into Metro Manila's wastebaskets.

Second, the plan fulfills the spirit of recycling and environmentally sound waste management. Recyclables and organic waste will be separated. The rest can be made into concrete blocks through hydromex. Hazardous waste can go to an incinerator (which may require an amendment of the Clean Air Act). The residue will be used for the offshore landfill.

Pollution will be checked by an elaborate system of synthetic liners and clay mat to prevent pollutants from seeping into groundwater, of drainage and water treatment, and of gas drainage to harness the methane generated by decomposition. The technology has worked for Japan and the United States. It may work for us, too.

We will survive

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

WHAT'S happening to our country?

Is this the country that suffered 300 years of Spanish rule, was exploited for half a century by the Americans, underwent the rigor of the Japanese occupation, endured the tyranny of martial rule and only recently chafed under the abuses of a stupid regime?

We withstood all these with courage and wisdom. But there are now many distressing signs of our deterioration as a people.

Everywhere you look now, you see Filipinos of various shapes and sizes sprouting dyed hair of all outlandish colors. Before, only old people with gray hair dyed it black to look young and some matrons with black hair dyed it blonde to look foreign. That was at least excusable because it was not epidemic.

But now dyed hair is like a contagion. It has afflicted young and old of both sexes who like to look addleheaded. And the colors they choose can be surreal, if not plain psycho. There was this ridiculous-looking woman who chose saffron, for God's sake, and seemed to be wearing a cap on her demented head. I saw a tricycle boy sporting green hair, believe it or not, pedaling furiously to probably another planet.

I suppose every one has a right to look foolish but there must be a limit to being crazy. The growing obsession to "colorize" one's hair may create the impression that the Philippines is a land of silly people. The natives of some primitive tribes who paint their faces like ugly masks are at least honoring their culture. Our own weirdos are merely displaying they're nuts.

Another thing that is changing in this modern generation is our names. We used to carry respectable Spanish names not because we wanted to ape the *kastila* but because they were forced on us by the *frailes*. Now, however, we have adopted other names, this time voluntarily and often to imitate other races.

Juan was quite acceptable before, and religious too, but now it has become Ivan or Hans or Giovanni or even Jhon. Pablo has become Paolo, Luis Luigi, and it's no longer Pedro but Pierre. The brown beauty of our Filipino women has not changed but they are no longer called by their former charming names like Maria or Ester or Dolores. They're now Marivic or Marilyn or Marissa. Call her Dolly now, and don't forget the "h" in Esther.

Even the nicknames have been occidentalized in keeping with the "in" scene. Nicolasa, who used to be called "Colasing" or "Colasita," is now "Nikki," which is more cosmopolitan. "Colasa" has been replaced by the more euphonious "Nicole," as in Kidman. Emilia, formerly "Miling," is now Emily, and "Tonying," from Antonia, has been modernized to "Toni." The "i" is supposed to distinguish it from the masculine "Tony," successor of the old "Tonio."

Here to stay, I'm afraid, is "Boy," or worse, "Boyette," to indicate a small boy. I can't understand why a mature man will answer to the name "Boy" or to the more respectful "Mang Boy" or the more absurd "Lolo Boyette." Ditto for "Baby," except when "Lola Baby" is so cute you still want to cuddle her even if she's going on 80.

And then there's attire. I remember a more decorous time when people did not venture out except in proper clothes, no matter how humble. Before the war, ordinary clerks went to work in coat and tie and rode in clean spacious buses or streetcars. The matrons usually wore *habitos*, brown on Tuesdays if they were devotees of San Antonio, maroon on Fridays for the Black Nazarene, and white with blue sash on Saturdays in reverence of our Lady of Lourdes.

Now the women wear pants like men or miniskirts like cute little girls. I don't see many women in *habitos* now, probably because religion has surrendered to fashion. As for the men, even members of Congress and the Cabinet sport loud shirts without going deaf.

The girls during my time wore demure dresses that left much to the imagination of those who wanted to fantasize. Their modern counterparts' clothes mold every curve of their bodies, not necessarily to their advantage although the boys are not complaining. Lana Turner became a star overnight when she wore a tight-fitting sweater that shocked Hollywood. Today? Some girls don't even wear bras.

By contrast, the boys today are a sight. We used to wear full-length trousers and white shirts with long rolled up sleeves or the more comfortable short-sleeved polo shirts. Now anything goes for the present generation. "Sandos" are no longer underwear but are now being used as outer garments in cars and public places like restaurants and theaters. The pants are especially revolting, ending not at the ankles but below the knee and wide like tents. Outsize shirts are *de rigueur*.

Our generation loved sweet music and danced to the strains of "Tonight" and "My Prayer" as crooned by Bing Crosby. Our hearts broke when Glenn Miller was lost at sea during World War II. Now the popular music is a cacophony of sounds hysterically bleated by half-naked entertainers hugging electronic guitars. Each generation has its own beat, as my son Celso would say, and thank Heaven for that for I never could abide theirs.

On top of everything, there is the social and political milieu with its forebodings of worse crises. Erap has been sidelined, but will he and his cronies ever be convicted? The Marcos clan remains immune without contrition. Panfilo Lacson keeps denying the evidence relentlessly piling up against him. Recently, a filthy rich fellow celebrated his birthday in a bumptious and stupid foreign costume. With his wife's matching dress, it must have cost the equivalent of at least 100 starving families' subsistence for one year.

I can't help being dismayed as I view the current scene, but maybe I'm just being prejudiced. The present always redeems itself retroactively. Looking back, I can recall when we frowned on the Beatles whom our children welcomed with wild enthusiasm. We thought their music—like "Yellow Submarine" and "Hey, Jude!"—was undisciplined and grating to the ear. Such fools we were. Now we prefer "Yesterday" much more to the jarring noises of Eminem and Limp Bizkit that my 17-year-old granddaughter Trisha loves so much.

The Filipino nation has experienced so many adversities but has always landed on its feet like a cat with nine lives. The spectacle of dyed hair and hip-hop and the mockeries of the Abu Sayyaf, along with other aberrations of this age, should not discourage us. It may take some time and much effort, but we will survive in the end, and succeed.

Increase our faith

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

ON THIS my last visit to America, I was so happy to meet people to whom I gave the scapular last 1994 and who told me that they still were wearing them. After seven years or so, they held on to the promise of the Blessed Mother who said that whoever wears the scapular will be under her special protection, and whoever dies wearing the scapular will benefit her most powerful intercession for salvation.

What faith! Simple and trivial matter maybe, but real and authentic faith. Faith, even the "size of mustard faith" (Lk. 17,5-10), can make a big difference in one's life.

Do you know why you don't make a difference? It's because you belittle faith and faith matters. Does faith matter in your life? Too small a matter for someone as big as you? Look again. Maybe you need glasses to see how empty life is without faith.

* * *

Pride makes one belittle faith. I remember visiting a sick person once who was indifferent to faith. I tried to offer him the sacrament of reconciliation, but he held on to his pride. When I realized that he did not want to open his heart, I just said to him, "Joe, God loves you very much, no matter what." I saw him turn misty eyed. I knew it hit his heart. But, regaining his composure and pride, he said "I guess He has good taste, Father!" Cute. But sad, very sad, that one holds on to foolish pride rather than to God till the very end.

So, when will you let go of your pride and hold on to your God? Don't wait till the very end, when you are already in your deathbed, or when you already have cancer, that you "surrender" to your God. Now, this very moment, you can say, "God, I need you in my life."

* * *

Someone once said that faith is like the spare tire (*reserba*) that we carry with us as we journey on. It is just there, unnoticed, neglected and often taken for granted, until we experience a flat tire. How lucky we are if we have a spare tire. But, check your spare tire and make sure that it isn't flat or underinflated. Faith must be constantly checked and nourished. Make sure that your spare is not a flat tire!

* * *

What is the difference between an atheist and a believer? It is the difference between going on a journey with just four wheels or with five wheels. Aside from the fact that there is a spare tire just in case, the very thought that there is one tire makes a more confident travel.

Aside from your money, investments, properties, or your *bilbil*, do you carry with you a spare tire as you journey on? If you are all human efforts without faith, you are missing a lot. On the other hand, if you are all faith without human efforts, you could be messing a lot. Balance. Faith should lead us to good works, and good works should lead us to deeper faith. Faith without works is empty. Works without faith is vain. Tip the balance, and we end up with a heroic, but empty humanism on one hand, and spiritual pride and gluttony on the other hand.

* * *

While we admonish the faithless to have faith, we also admonish the faith-full to be humble. We cannot manipulate God, as if we can buy or gate crash heaven because of our "goodness." Borrowing the lines of today's Gospel, after all we have done, we must come before God's presence and humbly say, "We are unprofitable servants; we have only done what we were obliged to do." Our good works should not lead us to complacency and pride, but to humility and deeper faith.

* * *

"Increase our faith!" More than ever we need to pray this prayer. This is a prayer for all times, for all situations. If times are hard, "Lord, increase our faith" so that we don't lose hope. If times are fine, "Lord, increase our faith" so that we do not become complacent or proud. Whether you are rich or poor, sinner or saint, healthy or sick, pray this prayer constantly.

* * *

Our birthday celebration and book launching last Oct. 1 was both a humbling and meaningful experience of faith. To see a church full of friends from all walks of life, from different moments of my life, made me all the more grateful and humble to the Lord who made it all possible. Unworthy as I am, the Lord has used me and continues to use me not so much because of me, but in spite of me, to touch people's lives. To God be the glory!

* * *

Don't just thank God that you have the faith. Thank God that you are the source of faith for other people too. Like light, faith must be shown and spread far and wide. Don't keep the faith. Spread it!

* * *

We are inviting you all to join us at the Christ the King Seminary grotto, E. Rodriguez Boulevard, Quezon City, next Saturday, Oct. 13, 2001 for the Rosary Rally for World Peace and Healing, sponsored and organized by the XVDs (the association of ex-SVD seminarians) and Father Corcuera, SVD. More than ever, we need to pray. Let us humble ourselves and pray for peace in the world, peace in our land, peace in our homes, peace in our hearts. We need each other, to increase our faith together. See you at 4 p.m. on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, I love you, I need you. I trust in you. Increase my faith. Amen.

Celebration of civilizations

CROSSCURRENTS

Antonio T. Carpio

THE WORLD is besieged with competing approaches to the resolution of the age-old conflict between Western and Islamic civilizations. The conflict that began with the encounter of Greek philosophy and Islamic thinking led to the Crusades in the Middle Ages, the expulsion of the Moors from Spain at the turn of the 15th century, and the European colonization of the Islamic world in the 19th century. In the 21st century, this conflict has metamorphosed into a global war against Islamic terrorist groups out to stoke the flames of a new full-scale conflagration between Western and Islamic civilizations.

The nations of the Islamic world, after regaining their independence, have generally been at peace with the West. The age-old conflict, however, continues to boil because of fears that the West, through globalization and information technology, is out to impose a single culture and civilization on all the peoples of this planet. Islamic extremists believe that only a jihad against the West can preserve the purity of their Islamic civilization. In contrast, moderate Islámic leaders believe that the age-cold conflict can be resolved through dialogue with the West.

The establishment of a new political world order in the 21st century is the new area of conflict between Western and Islamic civilizations. This new political world order is separate and distinct from the new global economic rules although quite often there are areas of convergence. The competition in the present century is no longer between economic ideologies, as was the case between capitalism and communism in the previous century. Although Islamic states have joined the World Trade Organization created by the West, they are adamant in protecting their culture and civilization from Western hegemony.

The position of the West, as recently articulated by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, is that the new global political rules will be decided by the community of nations arising from their moral duty to uphold the principles of democracy, peace, stability and development. Whenever and wherever these principles are threatened, the community of nations will take decisive action, as in the US-led intervention in Iraq and Kosovo, and now in Afghanistan, to repel these threats or disturbances to world order. The West, however, in observance of the rule of law, always acts under cover of the United Nations charter.

The position of the Islamic states, as articulated by the Organization of Islamic Conference, is that the new global political rules must be the product of a dialogue between Western and Islamic civilizations. The OIC has initiated a historic initiative to conduct a dialogue in order to explore areas of constructive cooperation, define the value systems and civilized behavioral patterns emanating from civilizations, and use these systems and patterns as basic reference for a new world order. The OIC accepts diversity in cultures and civilizations, freedom of religious belief, protection of ethnic and religious minorities, promotion of human rights and equality among nations.

On the other hand, the position of extremist Islamic groups, as articulated by Osama bin Laden, is that a clash of civilizations is inevitable. There can be no new world order until the influential presence of the West, particularly the United States, in Saudi Arabia and other Arab states, is totally eradicated. The battle cry of the extremists is to expel all Western influences in Islamic states, particularly in countries that host the three holy places of Mecca, Medina and Jerusalem. The extremists find it revolting that non-Islamic soldiers are stationed in Saudi Arabia and Jerusalem. They also cannot accept that a Jewish state exists at the very hub of the Islamic world.

Here in the Philippines, we have evolved over the last 30 years our own unique approach to this conflict between Western and Islamic civilizations. Out of the bitter and bloody Muslim secessionist war in Mindanao in the 1970s emerged a co-existence of cultures and civilizations. We have adopted the Shari'ah court system to apply to Muslim Filipinos who are now governed by Islamic law with respect to their personal, family and property rights. Philippine law protects the Islamic culture of Muslim Filipinos.

In this country, Islamic law co-exists with Roman and Anglo-Saxon laws. We are probably the only country in the world where the three great legal systems of the world co-exist in harmony. From Spain we inherited Roman law as found in our Civil Code and the Revised Penal Code. From America we inherited Anglo-Saxon law as found in our Corporation Code, Negotiable Instruments Law and many other laws. And because of our Muslim brothers in the South, we recognize the validity of Islamic law in this country.

Moreover, the Philippines has granted political autonomy to the Muslim minority in the South by creating the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. What we have given to our minority Muslim Filipinos are still being dreamed of by Christian minorities in Islamic states, even those belonging to the OIC. Sudan, which imposes Islamic law on its non-Muslim minorities, is still ravaged by a religious and ethnic war. Indonesia has denied autonomy to Ambon, the tiny and beleaguered Christian enclave in the biggest Muslim country in the world.

Sadly, despite the enlightened policy of the Philippine government, peace has eluded Mindanao for so long now. The peace process in the South is complicated by the presence of Islamic extremists. The invitation, however, by the mainstream Islamic states for a dialogue of civilizations based on respect for cultural diversity, freedom of religious belief and promotion of human rights, gives us hope that sooner than later there will be a congruence and harmony of positions.

As far as the Philippines is concerned, what Islamic states hope to achieve for the Muslim minority in this country through the dialogue of civilizations has already been done even before the dialogue has started. We can only hope that Islamic states will do the same to their own Christian minorities. Then the coming dialogue of civilizations can turn into a celebration of civilizations.

Washington fires back at Sharon

NEWS ANALYSIS

Jean-Luc Renaudie

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon triggered backlashes both from the United States and at home Friday after his harsh warning to the United States not to form a coalition against terror with Arab states at Israel's expense.

"Don't try to appease the Arabs at our expense. We won't accept it," the hardline Sharon thundered at a press conference Thursday night.

But the bullish speech in reaction to US President George W. Bush's endorsement Tuesday of a Palestinian state and refusal to go to war against Israel's hardline Islamic enemies appeared to prove a serious blunder. US Secretary of State Colin Powell on Friday told Sharon that Bush deemed his comments about appeasing Arabs at Israel's expense "unacceptable," said White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer.

Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Sharon has quietly grumbled at Washington's change in course from a hands-off approach to the Palestinian uprising and the Arab world. Sharon was hoping to benefit from the US war against Saudi-born Islamic militant Osama bin Laden, the attack's alleged mastermind. However, [the White House found its relationship with Israel to be a liability when it tried to persuade the Muslim states to join its fight against bin Laden,] who resides in war-torn Afghanistan under the protection of the fundamentalist Taliban regime.

Arab nations raged at Bush for not intervening forcibly to halt Israeli violence and insisted on a more sympathetic US stance toward the Palestinians.

"A lot of Israeli leaders hoped there would be greater tolerance and understanding for what Israel is doing in its war against terrorism, but it went the opposite way," Mark Heller, a principle research associate at the Jaffe Center in Tel Aviv, told AFP.

The hawkish Sharon finally hit back at Bush on Thursday night in a speech laced with references to Nazi Germany and by implication the World War II Holocaust of Europe's Jews. "I call upon the Western democracies, and first of all the United States as the head of the free world, not to commit again the terrible mistake made in 1938 when European democracies sacrificed Czechoslovakia for a temporary solution," Sharon thundered. "Israel will not be Czechoslovakia."

At the 1938 Munich conference, European powers yielded to German dictator Adolf Hitler and allowed him to take over part of Czechoslovakia to appease the Nazi regime. World War II started a year later.

A counselor to Sharon scrambled to strike a conciliatory tone Friday after Washington's scathing criticism. "What the prime minister is saying is that he must protect the security of Israel given the escalating violence that it is facing," Sharon advisor Dore Gold said, trying to mitigate the damage from the rare slap in the face to Israel by its closest ally.

According to an Israeli official, Sharon's speech aimed to rally the influential Jewish community in the United States against Bush. "Ariel Sharon played the note of the threat of a new Holocaust," an Israeli official told AFP on condition of anonymity. "It is also a way to express his anger at the Americans' refusal to include Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah on the list of organizations targeted in their war against terrorism," he said, alluding to Islamic groups that have attacked Israel with suicide bombers or guerrilla operations.

Left-wing Israeli opposition leader Yossi Sarid blasted Sharon's comments as "groundless, miserable, uncalled-for and dangerous." "They are something of a show of ingratitude to America, without which Israel would have a hard time surviving, and they are also a very serious diplomatic error," he said.

Israeli newspapers also criticized Sharon. "In a very short speech to the nation, Sharon warned the free world not to 'sacrifice Israel' to appease the Arabs, as Czechoslovakia was sacrificed on the eve of World War II to appease Nazi Germany," wrote the Yediot Aharonot, Israel's top-selling daily. "This was an unfortunate statement, historically mistaken, politically damaging, factually incorrect, and it deepens the sense of threat and strangulation that Israelis feel. It weakens us and insults our friends."

However, Heller predicted the storm would pass. "It could be potentially damaging if it escalates, but I don't think its going to go that far. There'll be some damage control and it'll be swept under the rug," he said.

AFP

Intermission politics

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

LISTENING to Sen. Panfilo Lacson's exposé of the alleged misuse of sweepstakes funds to subsidize the campaign of administration candidates in the last elections gives one the sick feeling that we're back on the familiar track of Philippine political life. The awesome events of this world are occurring elsewhere, while we seem fixated with the intermission stuff of petty and unrelenting political games. It's no longer amusing.

This is the mood created by Lacson's privilege speech on the supposed Mike Arroyo-led "Department of the Underground—the most inventive, creative and innovative agency of grease, graft and corruption." I do not believe the senator is simply trying to divert attention from the serious allegations of wrongdoing that he himself is facing. What he seems to be doing is to get the public to believe that all the criminal charges that have been filed, or will be filed, against him have a singular underlying motive. And that motive is to stop his rise to the presidency.

The senator clearly sees himself as the logical heir to the political base of Joseph Estrada. Like Erap, he enjoys mass appeal. Though not himself a movie actor, he too knows the art of plain talk. But unlike Erap, he comes better prepared. If Erap is hedonistic, he is nearly ascetic. If Erap is unschooled, he went through the discipline of military training. In 2004, the opposition will have no one else to field but Lacson, whereas there is no assurance that President Macapagal will not be challenged from within her camp when she seeks reelection. Lacson wants the public to think that from here on, events can only be understood through the political prism of the 2004 election.

The only defense he has put up against the flood of criminal charges that have come his way is that all these are politically motivated. By a technicality, he has avoided being tried for the mass murder of the members of the Kuratong Baleleng gang. He has distanced himself from the criminal activities of police officers who formed his loyal core of implementors when he was head of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force and later of the Philippine National Police. He has refused to sign a waiver that would allow foreign banks to divulge the existence of large dollar accounts traceable to him even after the National Bureau of Investigation and the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines have publicly accused him of maintaining huge foreign deposits.

Now he has taken the offensive. It is as if he's saying: "You want to play politics? I can dish it out too if you won't stop or leave me alone." This tactic is effective because it rides upon a growing cynicism in our society about the character of our public life. The view it encourages is that no one in government can claim to be absolutely clean, that charges and countercharges are part of the game of politics, and that investigations are nothing but political weapons.

The consequence of this attitude over time is the pervasive politicization of all social institutions. The judicial system loses its legitimacy, trust in the police and the military is eroded, the civil service becomes a plaything of the powerful, the mass media become sources of propaganda rather than of information, and schools and churches are seen as tools of power. In such a situation, the competition for power becomes the principal impulse of society. Justice is held in abeyance until the political results are clear.

Our own everyday experiences may often validate the deep suspicion that our society is indeed hopelessly trapped in this state of affairs. This explains our tendency to talk about the future of our country in tones of despair and exasperation whenever the subject of politics comes up. And yet, to our own surprise, between long intervals of pessimism and drift, we have more than once shown our capacity to assert the power of new values against the inertia of entrenched practice. We have resisted being immobilized by the knowingness that often comes with dealing with a particular type of politician too long.

Lacson's problem seems to stem from the fact that while he is a first-timer in electoral politics, he is really no stranger to politics. He has seen and heard too much, and what he knows especially during Erap's time has made him cynical. He suffers from a corrosive knowingness.

And so to charges that he keeps unexplained dollar accounts abroad, he responds by accusing no less than the secretary of justice himself, Hernando Perez, of hiding millions of dollars of bribe money in a Hong Kong account. To the charge that he has enriched himself by engaging in grave crimes like drug trading and kidnap-for-ransom, he reacts by accusing Mike Arroyo, the husband of the President, of dipping into public funds to promote the candidacy of administration senatorial candidates. These charges may or may not be true. The point is to determine if they are and to prosecute those who may be guilty.

Having spent time as head of the PNP, Lacson may have more damaging information about other key figures in our political life that he is reserving for the future. In the kind of politics he seems to know, the preferred method for buying immunity from attack is the method of mutual deterrence. We are seeing that in full display today. It makes for good sound bites, but, from the long-term perspective of our needs as a nation, it is neither useful nor entertaining.

* * *

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

America in crisis

COMMENTARY

Bernardo V. Lopez

HAVING stayed in the United States for a good seven years, half of the time in Chelsea, two miles uptown from the World Trade Center, I guess I have a right to speak.

There is an emerging crisis besetting America today, the lone superpower of the planet. This crisis consists of many complex intertwining factors that have all been put to a boiling point by the Twin Towers tragedy.

The first factor is hatred. America's rage is so blind that it threatens the very fabric of society. Hatred has consumed the ordinary American to such an extent that he would harass or even kill anyone who looks like an Arab. An Indian Sheik was killed. A Pakistani American woman was run down. A mosque was attacked. The mounting "hate crimes" have made the American enemy their very own selves, and that situation could deteriorate into an internal strife and anarchy. It carries echoes of World War II when the government arbitrarily detained 110,000 Japanese-Americans. It shows a people who are at a loss for answers.

The reason for the "hate crimes" is that America is a society breaking at the seams from its own weight and affluence. There is moral decay. Pent-up emotions are let loose. There is a subconscious hatred for civil society, which is breaking down. Violence unexpressed in daily life is coming out: kids killing other kids, students killing teachers. There has to be an outlet for a society that has been insulated from violence and wars since the 1848 Civil War. America exports war but never felt what it is like until now.

Isolation

The second factor is indifference. Ironically, anger and indifference can coexist. As a British analyst put it, in spite of being the leader in global communications, America has been isolated by its own media and by Hollywood from the reality of the outside world. In a sense, America has turned inward for decades, not understanding the outside world.

This isolation has made America insensitive and blind. It can grieve and rage over 6,000 killed in the attack on the Twin Towers but it can be insensitive to millions of refugees who may die because it is waging war against one man. America can raise hell for a handful of its citizens killed but it is self-righteous in killing others in the wars it makes. This insensitivity to others has made it sensitive also to itself.

America plans to send tons of food to Afghans to "win their hearts and minds." But it will not stop the war that is causing the greatest refugee crisis ever in the history of mankind, now peaking at three million. It will give bread to show its magnanimity, but it will also give bullets to show its ferocity. It will light a fire and douse it later.

The third factor is decadence. Empires are born from affluence and military power. The fall of empires from the Romans to the Moors to the Ottomans comes from the same affluence which breeds decadence. The Roman legions had become soft. The *phalanx*, a human wall that gave victory in many wars, was destroyed by the elephants of Hannibal from the Alps and the horses of Atila from the Russian steppes.

America has gone soft and is being eaten away by its own decadence. Eight of 10 marriages end up in divorce. Seven out of 10 men in their 40s are married more than twice. Many of the children, warped by rocky marriages, become zombies destroying society in anger against love it has never felt. When the basic social unit goes, America goes. America has been in a self-destruct mood even before the Twin Towers tragedy.

The fourth factor is fear. All of a sudden, America is no longer safe, as the recent attacks demonstrate. Now, for the first time in decades, there is fear in America's heart.

The fifth factor is economics. A recession was starting even before the tragedy. There is a domino effect in the fall of the airline industry. Stock market, insurance, malls, small restaurants, to name a few, are all in the doldrums. Even agriculture is affected with the ban on crop-dusting planes. The increase in freight cost due to higher insurance premiums strangle trade. Affluence, the essence of the superpower, is eroding.

Spiritual crisis

The sixth and last factor is a spiritual and value crisis. Because of the complex effects of the above factors of hatred, indifference, decadence and fear, America is losing its spiritual values, consumed by material affluence, not knowing the meaning of frugality and suffering. This has triggered confusion over what to do. It now lacks the spiritual strength to deal with the social volcano that is ready to explode because it has been so comfortable for so long.

The Twin Towers tragedy is a rude awakening, like Pearl Harbor. Americans say they have never before seen so much patriotism. But it is a patriotism mixed with blind rage and hatred, and that is why it threatens to lead to anarchy instead of rebirth, reconstruction and reformation.

Americans have to do a lot of soul searching. Its most highly advanced technology and superior military power are not the best attributes of world leadership. A world leader has to be humane and compassionate, not vengeful and vicious. It must use persuasion, not force. America has meted out economic sanctions to half a dozen small nations. It has become so used to using this tactic that there will come a time when these nation-victims band together against the superpower.

Bully tactics

The use of bully tactics to whip nations into line is not the trait of a world leader. A world order based on force and fear is not sustainable. A leader must be kind and forgiving while exerting authority and discipline.

Don't get me wrong. This bleak picture does not mean there can be no recovery. America will get up on its feet sometime, somehow. There are good as well as evil forces in the brew. Ordinary citizens, who make up the vast majority of Americans, are the hope of a nation beset by social, economic, as well as spiritual ills. They make up for hawkish, arrogant leaders who believe they can step on the toes of others with impunity, a "kick-ass culture" prevalent among the youth. America is doing a tightrope act and it must rethink its role as a global superpower, or even just as a nation.

Pain is the greatest teacher, Buddha said. Affluence and comfort are enemies. Now, America, after wallowing in comfort for so long, is feeling the pain, which will hopefully become a teacher so that it can respond to the crisis with prudence. The solution to the crisis that besets America lies not just in more power, more technology or the reversal of the recession. The solution is in the realm of spiritual transformation, which is often brought about by crisis, impoverishment and pain.

Bernardo V. Lopez is a freelance journalist.

THEY SAID

Fighting heart

"Our forces may not have fought in this kind of battlefield, but they have the heart and guts to pull them through."

—Philippine Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta Jr. on the ability of Filipino soldiers to fight even in harsh weather conditions such as those in Afghanistan

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TALK OF THE TOWN

JOHN NERY, Editor

Join the discussion. E-mail us at talk@inquirer.com.ph

Did the United States have it coming?

IN THE FOUR weeks since the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C., the e-mail circuits have been busy with "alternative" posts, presenting a case that the mainstream media have not made. While some offer a thoughtful reconsideration of the Sept. 11 attacks in the context of recent history and the role of the United States and its sometimes convoluted alliances, many illustrate the perils of ideological thinking.

A gift to the hard right

"THETERRORIST attacks were major atrocities. In scale they may not reach the level of many others, for example, Clinton's bombing of the Sudan with no credible pretext, destroying half its pharmaceutical supplies and killing unknown numbers of people (no one knows, because the US blocked an inquiry at the UN and no one cares to pursue it). Not to speak of much worse cases, which easily come to mind. But that this was a horrendous crime is not in doubt ...

... But today's events will, very likely, be exploited to increase the pressure to develop these systems and put them into place. "Defense" is a thin cover for plans for militarization of space, and with good PR, even the flimsiest arguments will carry some weight among a frightened public.

In short, the crime is a gift to the hard jingoist right, those who hope to use force to control their domains. That is even putting aside the likely US actions, and what they will trigger—possibly more attacks like this one, or worse. The prospects ahead are even more ominous than they appeared to be before the latest atrocities.

As to how to react, we have a choice. We can express justified horror; we can seek to understand what may have led to the crimes, which means making an effort to enter the minds of the likely perpetrators."—**Noam Chomsky**

The awesome cruelty of a doomed people

"BUT this is not the war of democracy vs terror that the world will be asked to believe in the coming hours and days. It is also about American missiles smashing into Palestinian homes and US helicopters firing missiles into a Lebanese ambulance in 1996 and American shells crashing into a village called Qana a few days later and about a Lebanese militia—paid and uniformed by America's Israeli ally—hacking and raping and murdering their way through refugee camps.

No, there is no doubting the utter, indescribable evil of what has happened in the United States. That Palestinians could celebrate the massacre of 20,000, perhaps 35,000 innocent people is not only a symbol of their despair but of their political immaturity, of their failure to grasp what they had always been accusing their Israeli enemies of doing: acting disproportionately. ...

... Ask an Arab how he responds to 20 or 30 thousand innocent deaths and he or she will respond as good and decent people should, that it is an unspeakable crime. But they will ask why we did not use such words about the sanctions that have destroyed the lives of perhaps half a million children in Iraq, why we did not rage about the 17,500 civilians killed in Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, why we allowed one nation in the Middle East to ignore UN Security Council resolutions but bombed and sanctioned all others who did. And those basic reasons why the Middle East caught fire last September—the Israeli occupation of Arab land, the dispossession of Palestinians, the bombardments and state sponsored executions, the Israeli tortures ...

All these must be obscured lest they provide the smallest fractional reason for yesterday's mass savagery."—**Robert Fisk**

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO/ PAGE DESIGN BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Being stupid together: Making an infantile public

"THE DISCONNECT between [Sept. 11's] monstrous dose of reality and the self-righteous drivel and outright deceptions being peddled by public figures and TV commentators is startling, depressing. The voices licensed to follow the event seem to have joined together in a campaign to infantilize the public.

Where is the acknowledgment that this was not a "cowardly" attack on "civilization" or "liberty" or "humanity" or "the free world" but an attack on the world's self-proclaimed superpower, undertaken as a consequence of specific American alliances and actions? How many citizens are aware of the ongoing American bombing of Iraq? And if the word "cowardly" is to be used, it might be more aptly applied to those who kill from beyond the range of retaliation, high in the sky, than to those willing to die themselves in order to kill others. In the matter of courage (a morally neutral virtue): whatever may be said of the perpetrators of [Sept. 11's] slaughter, they were not cowards...

Those in public office have let us know that they consider their task to be a manipulative one: confidence-building and grief management. Politics, the politics of a democracy which entails disagreement, which promotes candor, has been replaced by psychotherapy.

Let's by all means grieve together. But let's not be stupid together. A few shreds of historical awareness might help us understand what has just happened, and what may continue to happen."—**Susan Sontag**

They deserve it

"WE saw some people in Iraq and Palestine and I dare say many other countries rejoicing over the tragedies at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. It horrified us, as it should. But let us not forget that we do the same thing. When Israel bombs the Palestinians we either rejoice or show no compassion. Our attitude is that they deserve what they get. When the Palestinians bomb the Israelis we are indignant and condemn them as vermin who need to be eliminated.

We reacted without compassion when we bombed the cities of Iraq. I was among the millions in the United States who sat glued to the television and watched the drama as though it was a made-for-television film. Thousands of innocent men, women and children were being blown to bits and, instead of feeling sorry for them, we marveled at the efficiency of our military. For more than 10 years we have continued to wreak havoc in Iraq—an estimated 50,000 children die every year because of sanctions that we have imposed—and it hasn't moved us to compassion. All this is done, we are told, because we want to get rid of the Satan called Saddam Hussein.

Now we are getting ready to do this all over again to get rid of another Satan called Osama bin Laden. We will bomb the cities of Afghanistan because they harbor the Satan and in the process we will help create a thousand other bin Ladens."
—Arun Gandhi, *M. K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence*

The various 'alternative' e-mail messages miss the point. Even granting that the US government may be guilty of hypocrisy, of aiding contras in Nicaragua or mujahideen in Afghanistan in the 1980s: does that make the Sept. 11 strike any less an act of terrorism?

A media conspiracy

"SILENCE, rigorously selective, pervades the media coverage of recent days. For policymakers in Washington, the practical utility of that silence is enormous. In response to the mass murder committed by hijackers, the righteousness of US military action is clear—as long as double standards go unmentioned.

While rescue crews braved intense smoke and grisly rubble, ABC News analyst Vincent Cannistraro helped to put it all in perspective for millions of TV viewers. Cannistraro is a former high-ranking official of the Central Intelligence Agency who was in charge of the CIA's work with the contras in Nicaragua during the early 1980s. After moving to the National Security Council in 1984, he became a supervisor of covert aid to Afghan guerrillas.

In other words, Cannistraro has a long history of assisting terrorists—first, contra soldiers who routinely killed Nicaraguan civilians; then, mujahideen rebels in Afghanistan ... like Osama bin Laden.

How can a longtime associate of terrorists now be credibly denouncing "terrorism"? It's easy. All that's required is for media coverage to remain in a kind of history-free zone that has no use for any facets of reality that are not presently convenient to acknowledge."—**Norman Solomon**

Talking points

I TOOK the liberty of running excerpts from several of the more popular e-mail messages making the rounds, messages that seek to present an alternative perspective on the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and the imminent US-led retaliation. I have used only those which were lifted from websites accessible to the public or those which cross-refer to one another.

In this alternative interpretation, it is the famous language philosopher Noam Chomsky who strikes the high note. "As to how to react, we have a choice. We can express justified horror; we can seek to understand what may have led to the crimes, which means making an effort to enter the minds of the likely perpetrators."

That is fine as it goes, but what these messages have in common are two contradictory assumptions. One, a sliding scale of atrocities exists. (Chomsky: "In scale they may not reach the level of many others, for example, Clinton's bombing of the Sudan with no credible pretext...") And two, one bombing is just as bad as another. (Gandhi: "But let us not forget that we do the same thing ... We reacted without compassion when we bombed the cities of Iraq.")

The obvious problem with an atrocity scale is that it tends to a self-righteousness of the aggrieved; it imposes an hierarchy of victimhood. The end of this particular road will warm Israel's right, because the holocaust arguably makes the Israeli the victim par excellence.

The bombing of Iraq was terrible; that is true. But that was an inevitable consequence of Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait—and an unavoidable part of a declared conventional war.

It is the argument of the New York intellectual Susan Sontag, however, that most clearly illustrates the shortcomings of ideological thinking. First, "this was not a 'cowardly' attack," Sontag says. She equates courage with laying one's self on the line. True, essentially; but surely it is not courageous to make one's point with the lives of the innocent. A suicide attack on a military target, maybe. A self-immolation, certainly. But to call a terrorist strike courageous is to mistake discipline for bravery.

And second, public officials "have let us know that they consider their task to be a manipulative one: confidence-building and grief management." But to build confidence and manage grief in the aftermath of a catastrophe is not peculiarly American; it is simply what people do, to cope. To reduce this necessary task to merely one of psychotherapeutic manipulation, as Sontag does, is to betray a lack of understanding that damns the rest of her argument.

Solomon and Fisk point out that atrocities, too, have been committed in the name of the US or with the active help of the Americans. (Fisk: "a long history of assisting terrorists—first, contra soldiers who routinely killed Nicaraguan civilians; then, mujahideen rebels in Afghanistan.")

Admittedly, one movement's terrorist may be another movement's freedom fighter. But does that excuse any act of terrorism? If the object of the alternative view is to lengthen the public's historical perspective, these e-mail messages serve a definite tempering purpose. But if the object is to preach a moral relativism, to say that the US had it coming anyway, or that other atrocities have been committed elsewhere which therefore make the Sept. 11 attacks no better and no worse, these messages do us a disservice. Every life is valuable; to suggest that an American's life is worth less than another's because his country is a superpower with an imperial history is, to use Sontag's French, just plain stupid.—***J. Nery***

You can run but you cannot hide

US launches 'Keyhole' satellite to track Bin Laden, Afghans from space

WASHINGTON/ISLAMABAD—Osama bin Laden can run, but he may not be able to hide after the US carried its war on terrorism to the heavens on Friday with the launch of what is believed to be a finely focused spy satellite to hover over Afghanistan.

The launch was part of a slowly building diplomatic and military effort to isolate the central Asian nation ahead of possible strikes against the ruling Taliban for their refusal to hand over Bin Laden, the top suspect in last month's suicide plane attacks on New York and Washington.

The US sent troops to Uzbekistan, Afghanistan's northern neighbor, and won permission from nearby Georgia to use its bases for air strikes should the Taliban not give in.

The moves fueled speculation that the next act in the crisis was nearing as President George W. Bush assembled the biggest deployment of US forces since the 1991 Gulf War.

The US has blamed Saudi exile Bin Laden and his Islamic crusade for the Sept. 11 attacks by hijacked jets that leveled New York's World Trade Center, damaged the Pentagon near Washington and left some 5,600 people dead. It warned the Taliban, Islamic fundamentalists who have given Bin Laden safe haven for five years, to surrender him or face the consequences.

Should attacks go forth, they may be guided in part by what the newest US spy satellite sees after its launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

The Air Force refused to comment on the payload, but it was commissioned by the Defense Department's supersecret National Reconnaissance Office, which specializes in gathering pictures and electronic data, including telephone conversations, on the ground from hundreds of miles up in space.

Aviation Week and Space Technology Magazine said Washington had been readying a KH-11 "Keyhole" satellite with imaging resolution down to a few inches from 360 km out in space and could be used to track small groups of Afghans on foot and even spot their campfires.

Reuters

Taliban offer to exchange aid workers for end to US threat

ISLAMABAD—Efforts by Afghanistan's ruling Taliban to hold on to power took on an increasingly desperate air yesterday, as the militia effectively turned eight detained foreign aid workers into hostages against US military strikes.

With US military forces converging on its borders and diplomatic maneuvers to establish a successor regime in Kabul intensifying, the Taliban chose to play one of the last cards in their hands.

The foreign aid workers—two Americans, two Australians and four Germans—were arrested in early August along with 16 Afghan colleagues on charges of trying to convert Muslims to Christianity, a serious crime under Taliban law.

All are employees of the German-based Christian organization Shelter Now International. Sixteen Afghan staff of the same aid organization also were arrested.

In the statement, carried by the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP), the Taliban said international "humanitarian" concerns over the fate of the aid workers smacked of hypocrisy.

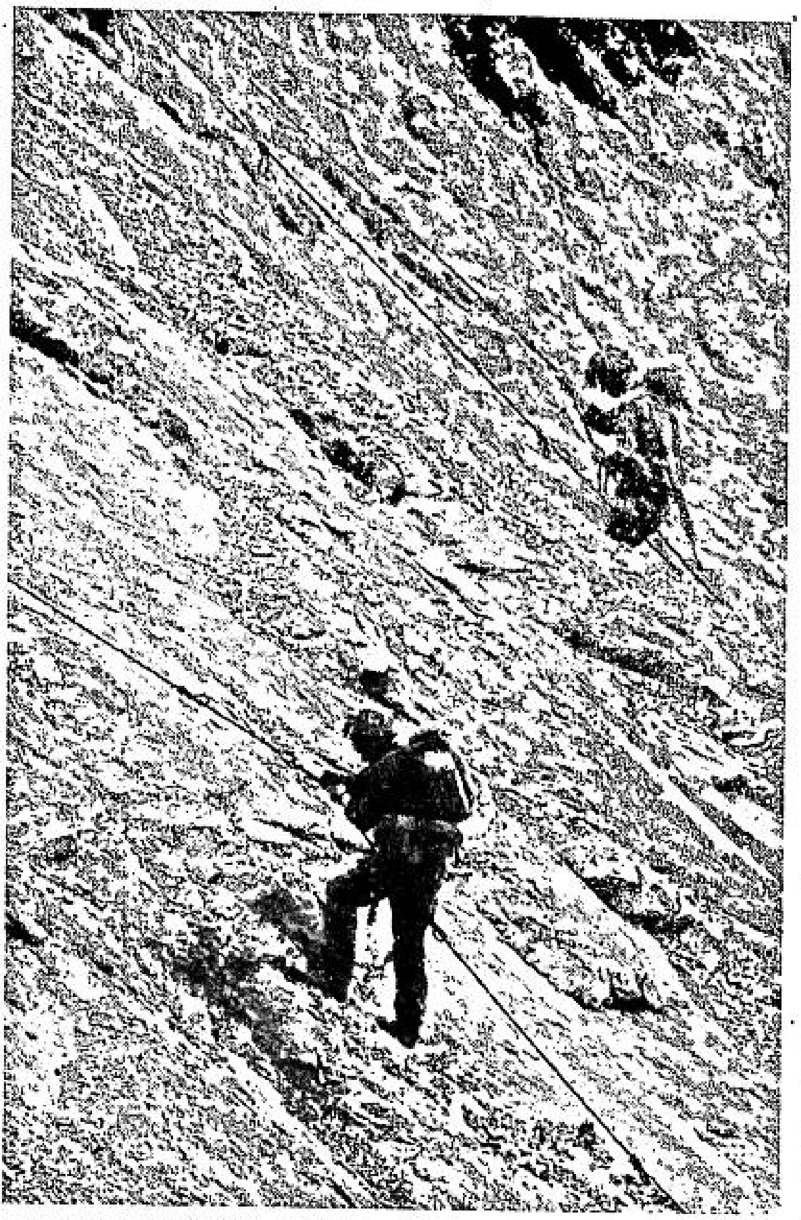
"If these eight detainees are important, then what about those Afghans who have been forced to leave their homes due to American threats in the midst of severe drought, oppressive sanctions and winter?" it said.

"Is the life of these children, women and old men not important?" The Taliban said the United States "should issue a statement that the (Afghan) people will be safe and will not be the target of attack and that they can go back to their homes.

"If they stop issuing threats, we will take steps for the release of the eight foreigners," the statement said.

It was the latest in a series of offers by the regime to negotiate with US over demands that they hand over Osama bin Laden, chief suspect in last month's terrorist attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

AFP, AP



PREPARING FOR WAR: British Royal Marines from the 42nd Commando Group scale a cliff during a training mission at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center at an altitude of 2,743 meters (9,000 feet) in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California Oct 5. The US Marines commenced a night attack exercise at sunset with the British Royal Marines. AFP

Alleged hijacker linked to Cole, embassy attacks

WASHINGTON—One of the suspected hijackers on the aircraft that damaged the Pentagon on Sept. 11 has been linked to two previous attacks attributed to Osama bin Laden, the New York Times reported Saturday.

Khalid Almihdhar had a role in the bombing of the USS Cole as it sailed into Yemen in October last year and "possibly" in the 1998 bombings of two US embassies in Africa, the newspaper quoted unnamed US government officials as saying.

It said British intelligence showed Almihdhar "played a significant role" in both attacks, according to senior US and European intelligence officials.

Bin Laden, a Saudi dissident living in Afghanistan who Washington says is behind the Sept. 11 attacks, has been indicted in the United States for masterminding the embassy bombings, and is believed to have planned the Cole attack.

The newspaper said Almihdhar's exact involvement was not known, however, and that investigators were having a tough time tracing his movements before Sept. 11.

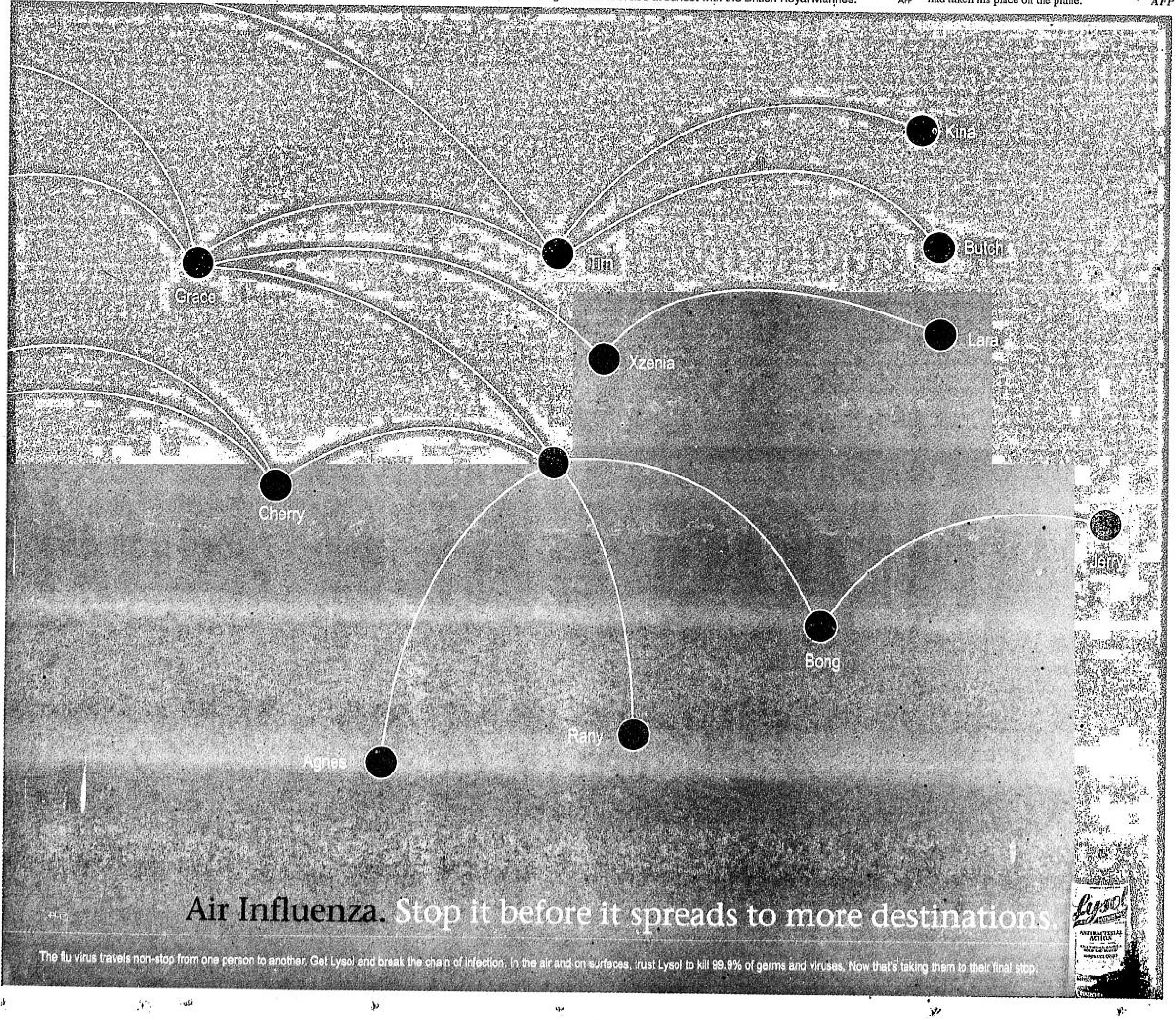
Up to now, US authorities have only spoken of one of the other hijackers—Mohamed Atta, an Egyptian aboard one of the planes that slammed into the World Trade Center—as having ties to Bin Laden.

The New York Times said an FBI list sent to federal bank regulators on Sept. 19 gave 21 names, including the 19 men identified as the hijackers of the four planes used in the attacks.

Almihdhar was the only name on the list to have the mention "alive" next to it, the newspaper said.

But it also quoted a senior law enforcement official as saying surveillance videos and witnesses placed Almihdhar at Dulles airport on the day of the hijackings and that it was unlikely that someone else had taken his place on the plane.

AFP



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Israel seizes 2 Palestinian areas

HEBRON, West Bank—Mideast truce efforts crumbled Friday as Israeli troops backed by dozens of armored vehicles seized two Palestinian neighborhoods in this West Bank city in retaliation for a series of deadly attacks on Israelis.

Five Palestinians—two gunmen and three civilians—were killed by Israeli fire in the pre-dawn incursion. More than 10,000 angry mourners poured into the streets for the funeral procession, led by dozens of gunmen firing in the air. Elsewhere in the West Bank, an Israeli motorist was killed in a Palestinian shooting ambush.

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinian security officials said Israeli tanks shelled two houses in the Rafah refugee camp, a constant flashpoint near the Israel-Egypt border, injuring two people.

They also reported Israeli machine gun fire elsewhere in the strip at targets, which included a Palestinian police post near the Karmi crossing point to Israel.

The Israeli military said only soldiers at various locations in the Gaza area were attacked with anti-tank grenades and automatic weapons and they returned fire.

One of Yasser Arafat's top lieutenants, Marwan Barghouti, on Friday openly defied the Palestinian leader, who two weeks ago, as part of the truce deal, had ordered his forces to try to prevent attacks on Israelis.

Barghouti, a leader of Arafat's Fatah movement in the West Bank, said the Palestinian uprising would continue. "This uprising didn't begin with a decision and will not end with a decision from anyone," Barghouti said.

But the Palestinian Cabinet, meeting in the West Bank town of Ramallah, issued a call for order and sought to distance Arafat and his ministers from strikes against Israelis.

"Some of the Palestinian factions, by their actions, are deviating from the national interest and the national unity of the Palestinian people," a Cabinet statement said.

"The Palestinian leadership is warning all those who are trying to violate President Arafat's decision to cease fire that it is a dangerous action and will harm the Palestinian national interest," it said.

The statement, issued after the Friday night Cabinet meeting, went on to warn dissidents that the Palestinian leadership would take "firm and clear measures to put an immediate end" to truce violations by Palestinians.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has alleged that Arafat was never serious about observing a truce. In a tough speech Thursday, Sharon said the Israeli military would do whatever necessary to protect Israeli lives. "From now on we will count only on ourselves," he said, suggesting the truce deal had become irrelevant. *AP*

Florida man who caught anthrax dies

LANTANA, Florida—63-year-old Florida man died of the inhaled form of anthrax Friday in the first such death in the United States in 25 years. Health officials said there is no evidence he was the victim of a terrorist attack, but the FBI and CDC are investigating.

Bob Stevens, a photo editor at the supermarket tabloid The Sun, died at JFK Medical Center in Atlantis after antibiotics failed against the infection, Dr. Jean Malecki said.

Federal and state health investigators have emphasized that the disease is not contagious and that no other cases have been reported. But they are trying to reconstruct Stevens' movements and track down the source of the disease.

Anthrax has been developed by some countries as a possible biological weapon, and the terrorist attacks Sept. 11 have put many people on edge about the threat. But anthrax can also be contracted naturally, often from farm animals or soil. Stevens was described as an avid outdoorsman.

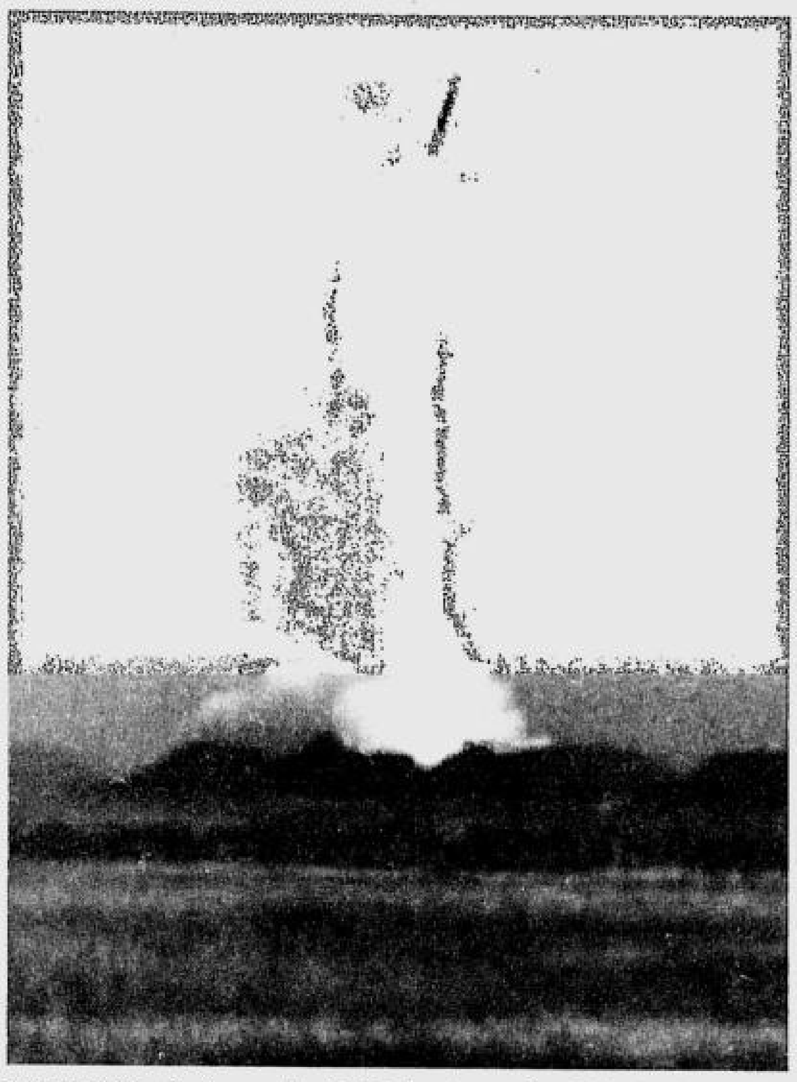
FBI, CDC and state investigators sealed off Stevens' house in Lantana and searched it for about two hours Friday. When they left, they removed the yellow crime-scene tape. They were also searching his workplace.

Some in Lantana have been concerned because Mohamed Atta, believed to have been one of the hijackers who destroyed the World Trade Center, had rented planes at a flight school at Palm Beach County Park Airport, according to the school's owner. Stevens' home is within 1.5 km of the airport.

Also, Atta and other Middle Eastern men are believed to have visited an airfield in Belle Glade, about 65 km from Lantana, and asked a lot of questions about crop-dusters. Some of the suspected hijackers had lived at an apartment complex in Boynton Beach, about 16 km from Lantana.

The most recent US case of anthrax was earlier this year in Texas. But that was the more common skin form, not the inhaled type of anthrax, an especially lethal and rare form in which the disease settles in the lungs.

During the 20th century, only 18 cases of inhaled anthrax were reported in the United States, the most recent in 1976. That, too, was deadly. *AP*



UKRAINIAN missile complex S-300 shoots a self-guided missile during a military exercise in eastern Crimea, Oct. 4. Military sources said the complex was tested at about the same time a Russian Tupolev-154 plane with up to 78 people on board exploded and plunged into the Black Sea. REUTERS

Russian jet crash still unexplained

SOCHI, Russia—Two of the scores of people killed when a Russian airliner exploded over the Black Sea on a flight from Israel have been identified, a senior official in the Russian emergency situations ministry said here Friday.

No details of the victims' identities or nationality were released.

At least 76 people died when a Sibir airlines Tu-154 plunged into the sea about 180 km from the Russian resort of Sochi on Thursday in still unexplained circumstances.

Relatives of those presumed dead and Israeli experts were expected to arrive in Sochi from Israel Sunday to help identify the bodies, the Itar-Tass news agency reported.

Deputy emergencies minister Alexander Moskalets said that the Russian gas giant Gazprom was sending a boat fitted with equipment able to plumb sea depths up to 2.5 km in a bid to find the plane's "black box" flight recorders.

"We do not know if this operation has a chance of success or not," he added.

Russian crash investigators searched the wreckage Friday in a hunt for clues linking the explosion to a terrorist attack, but there was also increasing speculation that a Ukrainian missile had accidentally shot down the airliner during a military exercise.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Anatoly Kinakh said Friday he could not rule out such a theory, and the White House said there was no evidence of a terrorist plot.

The Ukrainian defense ministry pledged to provide Russian investigators with technical parameters and readouts of the missiles fired during Thursday's maneuvers, according to Russian military officials quoted by the RIA-Novosti news agency.

The airliner, carrying 64 mainly Israeli passengers and 12 crew, was flying from Tel Aviv to Novosibirsk, Siberia, when it vanished from radar screens.

The number of people on board was not known with absolute certainty, with some reports setting the figure at 77 or 78.

The Sochi mayor's office warned that it was unlikely the plane's "black box" flight recorders would be recovered.

The recorders are lying on the seabed at a depth of around 1,000 meters, well below the depth where the sea's hydrogen sulfide layer—which kills all life—begins, and "there is no equipment on the Russian Black Sea coast for descending to such a depth," local officials said. *AFP*

Alaska oil pipe punctured

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—Crews scrambled on Friday to mop up the second-largest oil spill from the trans-Alaska pipeline after a rifle shot nearly halted about one-fifth of US domestic production, officials said.

The first piercing of the 24-year-old pipeline by a bullet forced the operator on Thursday to turn off the flow of 42 million gallons a day through the 1,300-km-long pipeline, which runs from Prudhoe Bay in the Arctic to the Prince William Sound port of Valdez in the south.

Close to the pipeline's midpoint, about 80 km north of Fairbanks, oil sprayed from the puncture to coat about 0.8 hectares of ground in an area of tundra and stunted spruce, operator Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. said.

An estimated 277,000 gallons gushed from the bullet hole, Alyeska said. Oil continued to spew on Friday. The hole had not been plugged because of the high pressure in the line at that section, Alyeska said.

The company does not yet have a time estimate for the plugging, spokesperson Tim Woolston said.

Alyeska has isolated the affected section of pipeline, which held about 840,000 gallons of oil at the time of the leak, Woolston said. The amount has declined since then, he said. "Since early on, we have been draining the line slowly," he said.

About 120 emergency workers were dispatched to the scene, along with representatives of regulatory agencies, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation said. Workers were setting up containment areas to collect the spilled oil and using vacuum trucks to suck it up and remove it, the conservation department said.

Woolston said the cleanup workers had picked up nearly 15,000 gallons by midafternoon.

"The contamination is limited to a two-acre area, and it is limited with containment dikes and ponds that have been put in place," he said. "It has been described as a very stable situation, even though oil is still coming out of the line." *Reuters*

Asia needs billions to fight AIDS

MELBOURNE—Tackling the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic in Asia would require billions of dollars each year for treatment and prevention programs, a leading AIDS expert said yesterday.

It would also mean adaptations in research efforts and treatment drugs, which are often too complex and not used correctly by people in Asia, International AIDS Society president Stefano Vella said.

Speaking at the 6th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific in the southern city of Melbourne, Vella said barriers to HIV care and treatment in the region were the high cost of drugs, lack of health infrastructure, the existence of other health emergencies and the complexity of current treatment programs.

Tackling these obstacles—and organizing prevention programs—would be difficult and expensive, Vella added.

"It's been calculated that between $7 billion and $9 billion per year for at least 10 years is needed to bring prevention, care and support to the south of the world," Vella said.

"This cost should be met by the wealthy countries," he added.

However, Vella said it would be a mistake "to think that just having money for drugs would solve the problem."

"Addressing the inequalities between rich and poor countries in access to health care is . . . the most moral, scientific, technical and political challenge of this century," he added.

Some 36 million people around the world are living with HIV, the virus that leads to AIDS, according to the United Nations AIDS agency, UNAIDS. In Asia, about 6.4 million people carry the disease, second only to the sub-Saharan Africa region.

Vella said providing treatment and care to sufferers of HIV required a proper health infrastructure, which could also be used to treat other diseases common in Asia, such as tuberculosis and malaria.

With vaccines "not on the immediate horizon," simplifying HIV drugs for the Asian region was also necessary, he said.

"We know very well that antiretroviral therapy (for the treatment of HIV) . . . has had a dramatic impact on mortality and mobility," Vella said. *AP*

Schindler's widow, 94

BERLIN—Emilie Schindler, the widow of German businessman Oskar Schindler whose wartime crusade to save Jews from the Nazis featured in the 1993 Steven Spielberg blockbuster, has died aged 94, hospital officials said Saturday.

Officials at the Strausberg hospital north of Berlin said she died there Friday night but gave no further details on the cause of death.

She was born in February, 1907, in Sudetenland, now the Czech Republic, and married when she was 18. She had lived in Argentina since 1949 but had decided to end her life in Germany and was hospitalized in July after a stroke.

Spielberg's "Schindler's List" recounted the story of Oskar Schindler's battle to save 1,200 Jews during World War II and the list itself was found a few years later in 1999 in a suitcase that had belonged to Schindler.

The suitcase turned up in the northern town of Hildesheim in a house where Schindler spent his last years before his death in 1974. He had left his wife in 1957 and returned to Germany.

The list was handed over to the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem. *AFP*

Colombia rebels vow to end kidnappings

LOS POZOS, Colombia—Colombian rebels announced late Friday there will be no more mass civilian kidnappings, as the Colombian government and FARC guerillas agreed to continue the peace process, according to official sources.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and government have also given their agreement to "immediately" study the possibility of a ceasefire, the sources said.

The news came as President Andres Pastrana met Friday with top rebel military commanders to discuss the current "critical" moment of the peace process, just four days before a deadline governing the status of a rebel safe haven was due to expire.

At a meeting held at a military club 110 km southwest of Bogota, the government's peace negotiator Camilo Gomez and FARC founder and top leader Manuel Marulanda committed themselves to "embark immediately" on an integral study of a document drawn up recently by a peace commission.

That proposal includes a six-month ceasefire and recommendations to combat rightist paramilitary groups.

The FARC, Colombia's most populous guerrilla grouping with some 16,500 combatants, also agreed to put an end to mass kidnappings of civilians while insisting that kidnapping was not a policy of the organization.

The Interior Minister already indicated Pastrana intended to allow the rebels to maintain control of the 42,000 sq. km. zone ceded to them four years ago in a bid to promote peace talks beyond its Tuesday deadline.

Pressure had been growing on Pastrana to end the peace process, however, which hit a major snag with the murder of Consuelo Araujonoguera, a former culture minister and the wife of Colombia's attorney general, a few days after she was kidnapped allegedly by the FARC. Her body was found last Saturday. *AFP*

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skieas with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. OURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 35° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly cloudy	Hi 25° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 22°
Laoag	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 35° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Mostly cloudy with rain	Hi 33° Lo 26°
Roxas	Mostly cloudy with rain	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Mostly cloudy with rain	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Mostly cloudy with rain	Hi 34° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Mostly cloudy with rain	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Mostly cloudy with rain	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Cagayan de Oro	Mostly cloudy with rain	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Davao	Mostly cloudy with rain	Hi 33° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research/10/06/01

ROUNDUP

Flood hits rice granary

BANAYBANAY, Davao Oriental—Flash floods submerged a number of barangays here on Wednesday and destroyed hundreds of hectares of rice farms and fishponds. Disaster officials yesterday said damage in rice production alone stood at P5 million after rampaging waters inundated ricefields in Barangays Rang-ay, Panikian, San Vicente, Kabancalan, Mugbong Kugon, Piso, Kalubian, Caganganan, and Poblacion. This town serves as the rice granary of Davao Oriental.

Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

2 found dead in Davao

DAVAO CITY—A military officer and a taxi driver were found dead separately on Wednesday. Capt. Dennis Catabuna, 29, finance officer of the Engineering Support Battalion of the 55th Engineering Brigade based in Camp San Gabriel, Tugbok District, was found with a bullet wound in the forehead at the San Rafael Bridge in Ma-a District. His cell phone, wallet and other belongings were missing. The body of Romeo Benecero, Artville taxi driver, was discovered inside the compound of Guadalupe Village in Lanang. Police said Benecero, 46, of Lubo, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, bore stab wounds in the neck and body.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Raiders arrest 18 GROs

SAN PABLO CITY—Police and city health officials raided several videoke bars here resulting in the arrest of 18 guest relations officers who did not have health and work permits. The GROs, mostly minors, were rounded up last week in raids on the Negros Grill, Gloria Videoke, Hotlips, En-En and Millet. Supt. Ramon Dominguez, city police chief, said his men had been monitoring these bars which, he added, were frequented by illegal drug users and pushers.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Mayor defends layoffs

SAN PABLO CITY—Citing financial constraints, Mayor Florante Aquino justified the decision of the city government to terminate the services of 752 casuals employed by the previous administration. Aquino said the city government had exceeded the limit of 45 percent of its total income as allotment for personnel services. He said he made the decision after he discovered that the city government had been employing 60 drivers, many of whom do not even know how to drive while others do not even have driver's licenses.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Social ills tackled

STO. DOMINGO, Albay—A two-day workshop on local advocacy has identified various social problems affecting the communities of its participants coming from Sorsogon City and Malinao town in Albay. Among the problems were increasing number of teenage and unwanted pregnancies, defiance to social change due to religious beliefs, domestic violence, rising population, especially in upland villages, malnutrition, and illiteracy in far-flung barangays. The participants agreed that priests and local chief executives who are influential on the people could be tapped in giving support to any program in the locality.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Mercury shipment seized

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources office in Davao and the Bureau of Customs have intercepted a shipment of toxic mercury used in the processing of gold ores in Davao City.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez made the announcement as he vowed to intensify the department's campaign to control and monitor the inflow of toxic and hazardous materials here.

Arrested in Davao were Ibno Abbas Samara, 28; Anwar Agman, 20; Asin Abbas, 21; all of General Santos City; and Jol Baclayon, 30, of Lupon, Davao Oriental.

The suspects were on board a Nissan pick-up with license plate no. LBL 737 when the Customs police in Southern Mindanao led by Maj. Juanito Algenio intercepted them along the Diversion Road in Buhangin District in Davao City.

Seized were 10 cylinders containing 40 to 45 kilograms of mercury per cylinder. The mercury was valued at P500,000.

The cylinders were labeled "Algeria Complese Mercuriel," believed to have been transported from the port of Dadiangas to Davao City.

The suspects failed to present a permit for the shipment in violation of DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 97-38, also known as the Chemical Control Order for Mercury and Mercury Compounds, which bans the importation of mercury.

They also violated the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, which prohibits the importation of goods not covered by customs receipts of payment of duties and taxes.

Mercury is used in the processing of gold ores.

The Mt. Diwalwal area in Compostela Valley has been referred to as a "gold rush area" since the 1980s. Authorities believe the mercury shipment was on its way to the processing plants there.

On Sept. 12, Alvarez ordered the DENR's regional Mines and Geosciences Bureau to "take appropriate action" against all gold processing plants in Apokon, Tagum City, in compliance with Republic Act No. 7076, a law on small-scale mining, and Presidential Decree No. 984 or the Pollution Control Law.

This, in effect, means that processing plants that do not have mineral processing permits from the DENR-MGB will be closed.

The Coalition Against Pollution from the University of the Philippines had earlier complained of the high-risk processing being done by the plants in Apokon.

Exec says Ilocos vice gov behind Marcos rites

By Blanche Rivera
and Gerald G. Lacuarta

A TOP education official of Ilocos Norte, who is in hot water for tasking public schoolchildren to participate in Marcos rites, said she was merely following orders from the provincial government, which is still being run by the Marcos family.

Schools superintendent Ligaya Miguel said she was directed by Vice Gov. Windell Chua to get involved in the Marcos family's private commemoration of the late dictator's death anniversary.

Miguel squealed the local directive in a letter to Education Secretary Raul Roco, saying the Department of Education had been "asked to participate in the Marcos Day."

She said she did not intend to violate the policy of teaching the truth of Philippine history to schoolchildren.

"It grieves me that our participation in the Marcos Day rites held here . . . is being blamed on (you)," she added, stressing her apologies for the "undue accusation" against Roco.

Presidential Commission on Good Government chair Haydee Yorac said she could not "instruct" the DepEd chief on whether Roco should intrude into the political beliefs of some teachers in the department, the country's largest bureaucracy.

Glorifying dictator

Yorac, however, insisted that while she respected differing opinions on the supposed greatness and tyranny of Ferdinand Marcos, it was an "entirely different matter" when education officials were officially glorifying a dictator and herding public schoolchildren "for indoctrination purposes."

The pupils of Ilocos Norte were assigned by education officials to rummage for pictures of the dictator and stories on his "greatness" that they would present to the Marcos family as "gifts" during the death anniversary rites.

They were also compelled to join elocution and choral competitions, as well as a storytelling contest, to regale the Marcoses and other loyal friends and associates in government. The pupils then proceeded the entertainment at the Marcoses' ancestral home in Batac.

Miguel said Chua, who was then acting as governor in the absence of Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., had informed her that she was to sit in the steering committee for the Marcos Day celebrations.

She said she had to attend meetings for the Marcos Day at the governor's office to prepare the fanfare involving the schoolchildren.

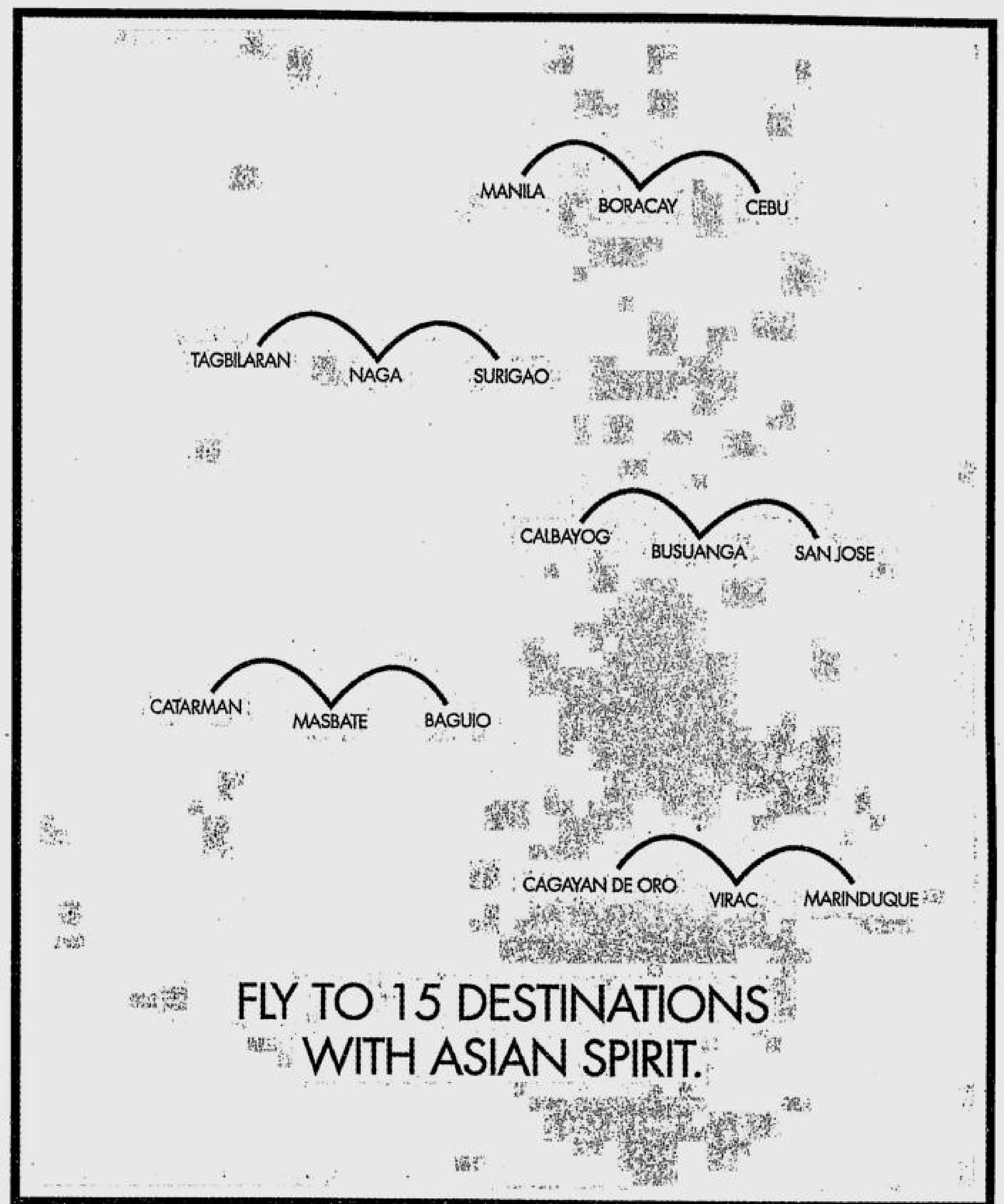
Ablan

Militant groups who fought the Marcos dictatorship until its downfall in 1986 are demanding an apology from Ilocos Norte Rep. Roque Ablan Jr. for allegedly reinventing "a hated dictator" and revising history.

Ablan had earlier defended the Marcos Day rites that feted the "heroism" of the late strongman.

"Congressman Roque is an unrepentant crony and loyalist who up to now denies the historical fact that his dictator-idol was unceremoniously booted out by an outraged people 15 years ago," said Rafael Mariano, chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, in reference to the 1986 Edsa Revolution.

"He (Roque) is the least qualified to teach us about history," Mariano added.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3434 Series of 2001

PNP exec tells Chinoys: Don't panic, be careful

By Gia Damaso Dumo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAN FERNANDO CITY—The top police official in the Ilocos has urged wealthy businessmen in the region, particularly the Chinese-Filipino community, "not to panic but to be extra careful" in light of two recent kidnapping incidents.

Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao, regional police director, said he had also received reports that some Chinese-Filipino families have asked their children to skip classes as a "precautionary measure."

Lomibao urged the families of kidnap victims, particularly that of hotel owner Charlie Ngo of Dagupan City, to give their full cooperation to the police because "we cannot act on an incident that is not reported to us."

He said the police were relying on their own sources for leads, independent of the victims' families.

He also appealed to media "not to play up the incidents so as not to put the lives of the victims in danger."

On Thursday night, police solved the kidnapping of Jacqui Rowena Tiu, daughter of a Chinese-Filipino trader in the city, with the arrest of seven Chinese in raids in Cavite and Pasay City.

Tiu, who was abducted last week in this city, was released unharmed after her family paid the kidnappers P10 million.

Another Chinese-Filipino businessman in La Union became a victim of violence when his residence-palay warehouse and his neighbor's house were broken into by 10 heavily armed men at 6:40 p.m. Thursday.

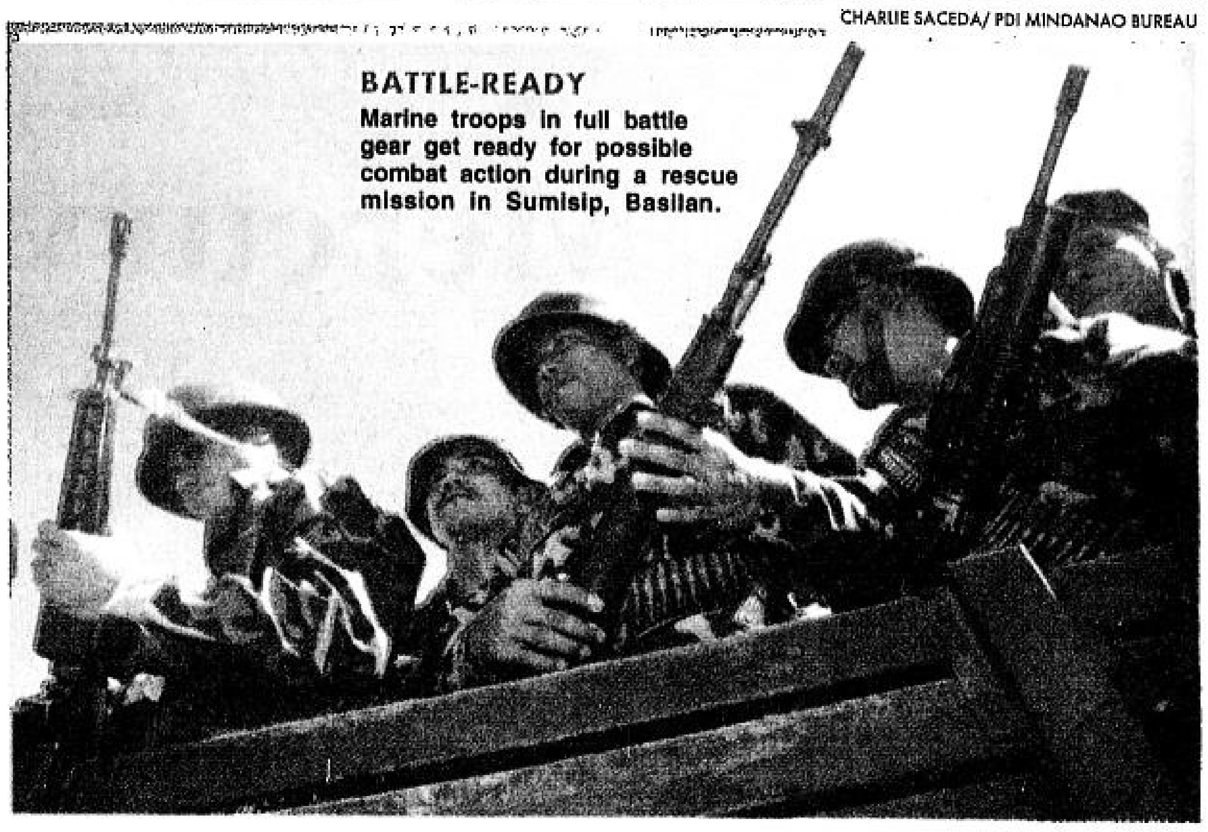
The robbers took with them P212,000 in cash and more than P50,000 worth of assorted jewelry and appliances, according to police reports.

Businessman Philip Que and his neighbor Felipe Inong of Barangay Rising in Bangar, La Union, were the latest victims in a spate of crimes that have rocked the Ilocos region in the past seven days.

In a telephone interview, Chief Insp. Nick Pamuspusan, Bangar police director, said the robbers, all armed with Armalite rifles and an M-203 rifle grenade launcher, were aboard a light gray Kia Besta van with license plates ending in "471."

Six of them, whose faces were concealed by bonnets, broke into Que's house, while three others entered Inong's house as the driver stayed in the van.

Witnesses, including a grade school pupil, were able to identify the three who burglarized Inong's house because they were not wearing bonnets.



CHARLIE SACEDA/ PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

BATTLE-READY
Marine troops in full battle gear get ready for possible combat action during a rescue mission in Sumisip, Basilan.

3 broadcasters win labor case

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) here has ordered Manila Broadcasting Corp. to pay P335,950 in backwages and damages to three broadcasters who were illegally dismissed on March 5.

In a decision dated Sept. 18, the NLRC also ordered the immediate reinstatement of Francisco "Soc" Abonado as production supervisor; Jose Cejar, announcer; and Edwin Pacino, reporter.

Labor arbiter Cesar Sideño, who wrote the decision, said MBC's Aksyon Radyo failed to submit evidence to prove its claim that low ratings had caused the company to bleed, forcing it to adopt cost reduction measures, including the retrenchment of some employees.

Sideño ordered MBC to pay Abonado P185,130 in back wages and damages; Cejar, P68,700 in back wages; and Pacino, P81,900 in back wages, plus 10 percent of the total amount as attorney's fees.

He, however, dismissed charges of abuse of authority against MBC officials Ruperto Nicdao, Victoriano Bustillo and John Paul Tia because the complainants failed to prove that they "acted in excess and beyond their jurisdiction."

MBC will appeal Sideño's decision before the NLRC court division based in Cebu City, said Ma. Jane Paredes, MBC legal counsel for the Visayas.

Abonado, Cejar and Pacino were among six employees of Aksyon Radyo who were retrenched last March 5. The management claimed that the station had incurred huge losses in advertising sales because of its decline in survey ratings.

While the retrenched employees received benefits, Abonado, Cejar and Pacino refused to receive their retrenchment pay and instead filed a case before the NLRC.

Cejar and Pacino belied the company's claim of losses, saying the MBC was even hiring new employees.

Cejar had been working with MBC for 10 years until his retrenchment, with a monthly salary of P6,000. Pacino had been covering the courts for MBC since 1994. When he was sacked, his monthly salary was P7,800.

Abonado joined MBC in 1991 as an anchor and rose to become acting production supervisor. In January 1996, his status was downgraded to announcer even as he completed a six-month probationary period in April 1995.

Sideño, in his ruling, said Gil Torres, a mere personnel and administrative manager, had no authority to reverse the classification of Fred Elizalde, chair of MBC, who signed Abonado's paper as acting production supervisor.

He described as "illegal, tainted with malice and with evident bad faith" the two termination notices issued to Abonado.

Nicdao issued a memorandum on Dec. 28, 2000, terminating Abonado's services. In January 2001, Abonado received another notice of retrenchment to take effect 30 days after.

Lanao Muslims plan peace rally

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Muslims in Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte will converge in Marawi City on Tuesday for a rally to denounce the United States' planned war against the Taliban government in Afghanistan.

The Islamic Movement for Electoral Reform and Good Government (IMERGG) said the rally would focus on peace advocacy in the country and would remind President Macapagal-Arroyo to exercise caution in giving support to the US campaign against the Taliban.

"We want to rally for peace for the entire country and not engage ourselves in a war not our own," said Hadji Abdulah Lacs Dalidig, founder and chair of the IMERGG.

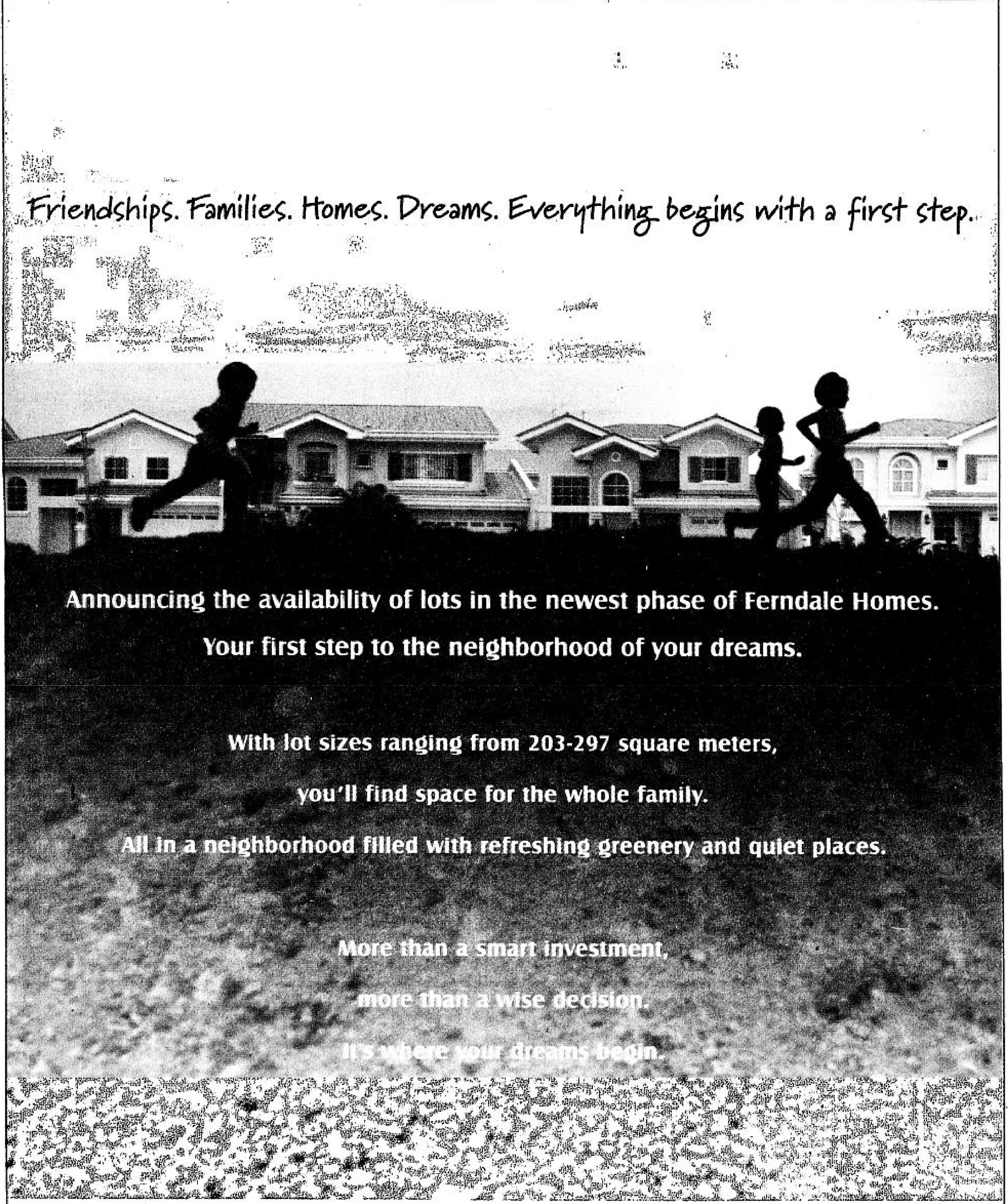
In the Philippines, he said sentiments among Muslims on the ongoing US campaign in Afghanistan had become so heightened that they worry for their Muslim brothers and civilians who may be caught in the crossfire if war erupted in Afghanistan.

"We denounce terrorism, but if our brothers in Afghanistan will become innocent victims, then we have to extend our support. The US must first present its evidence against any terrorist group or individuals suspected (to be involved in the) attacks," Dalidig said.

The United States has already briefed its allies, including the Philippines, on its plans and has presented evidence on the alleged involvement of Osama bin Laden, a "guest" of the Taliban government, in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

Dalidig claimed that the IMERGG has about 40,000 followers in the two Lanao provinces who have expressed solidarity with other Muslims in other nations and campaign for sobriety.

Butch Enerio, PDI Mindanao Bureau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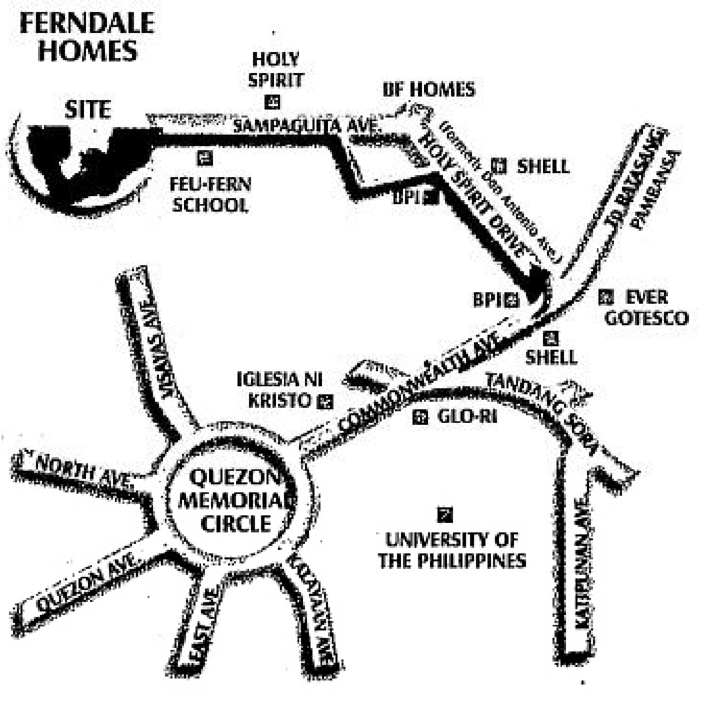

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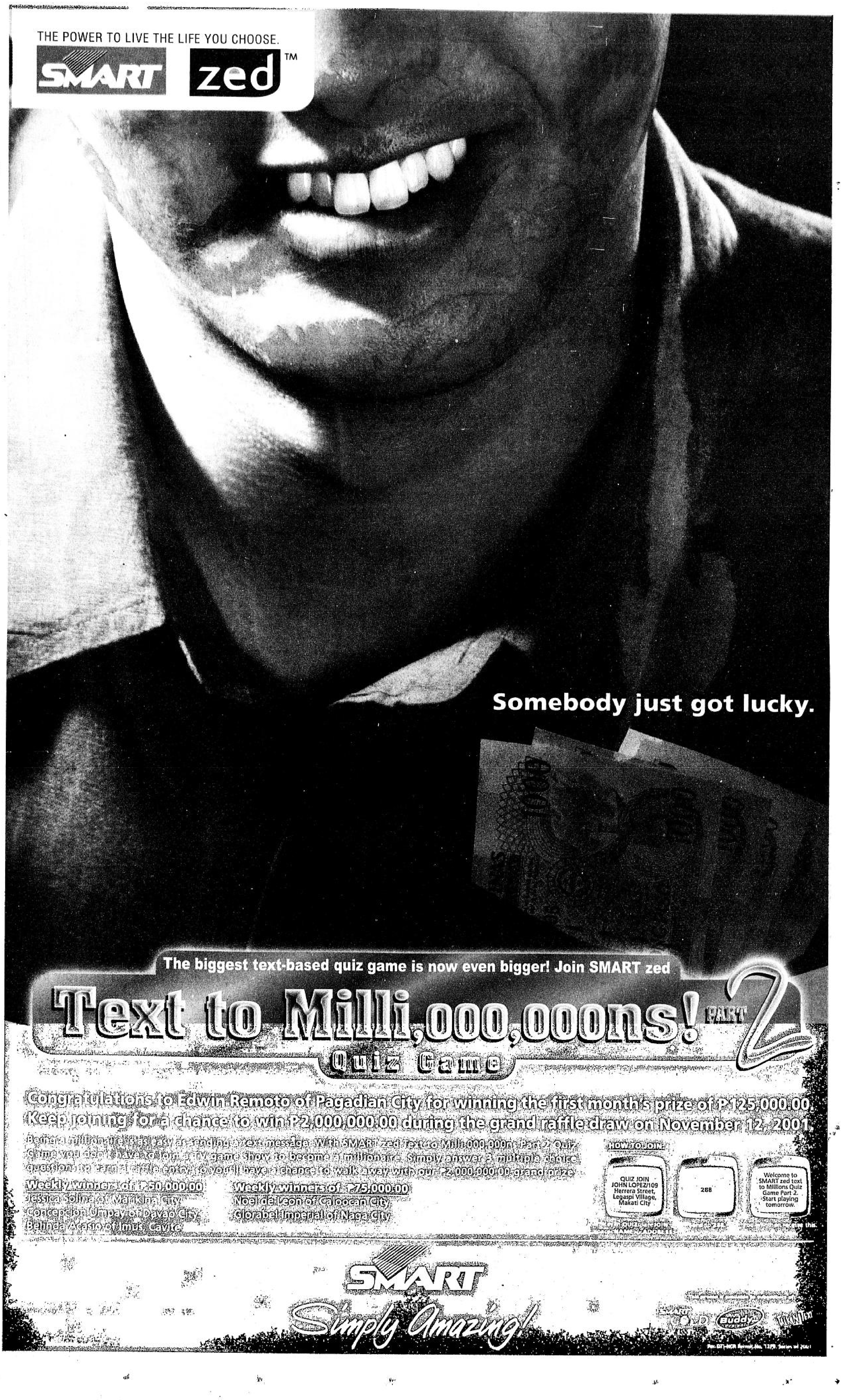
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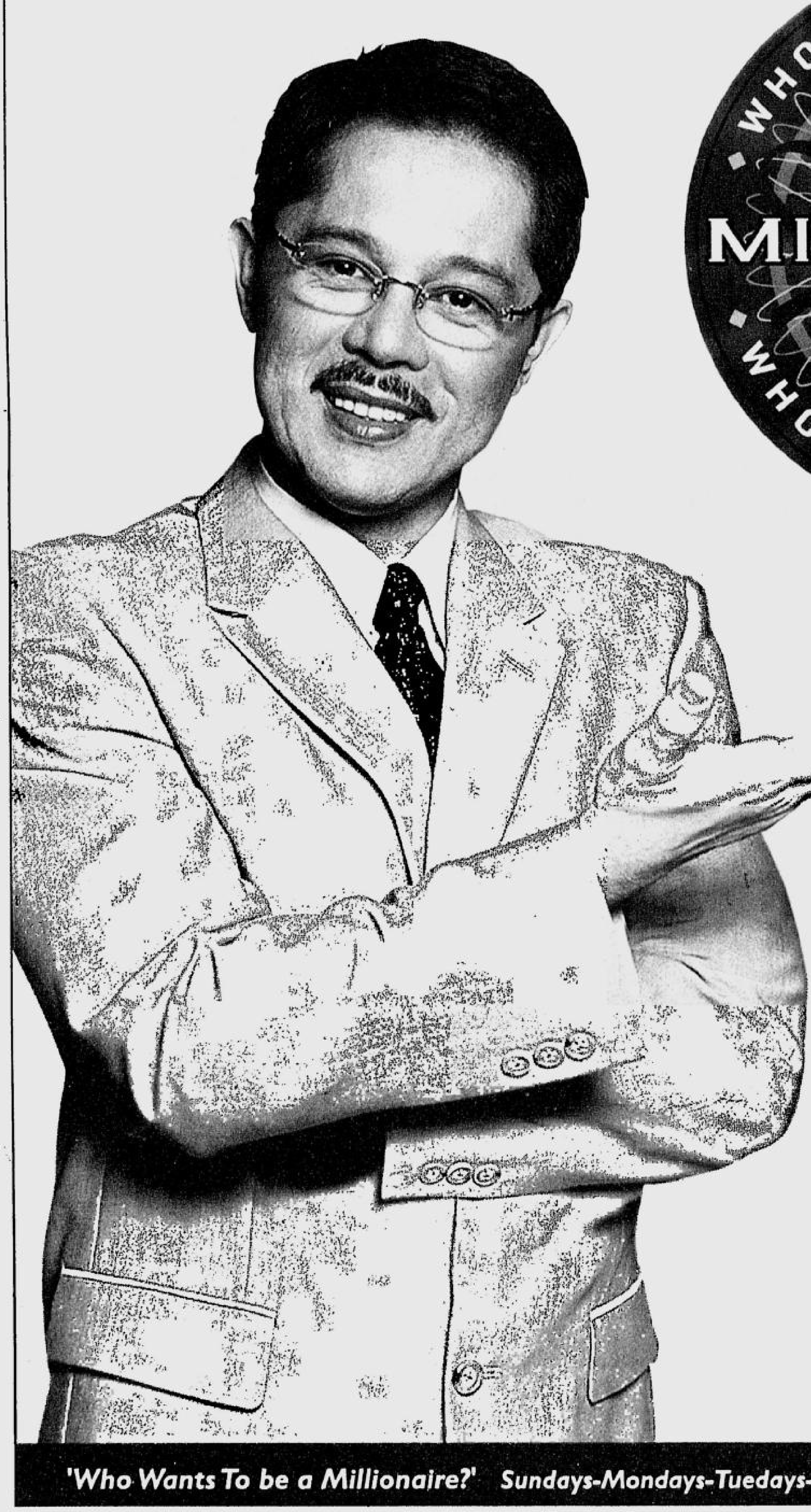

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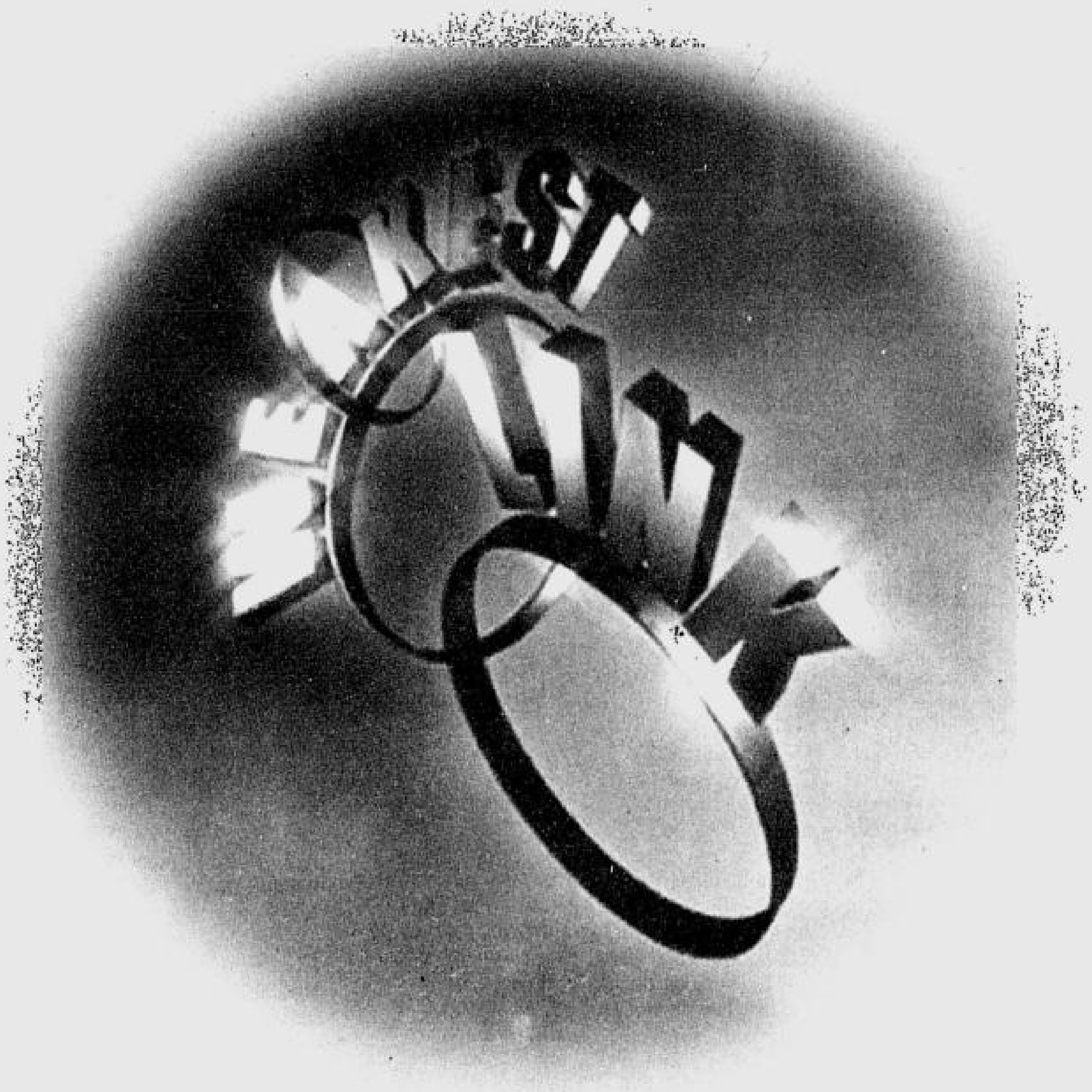

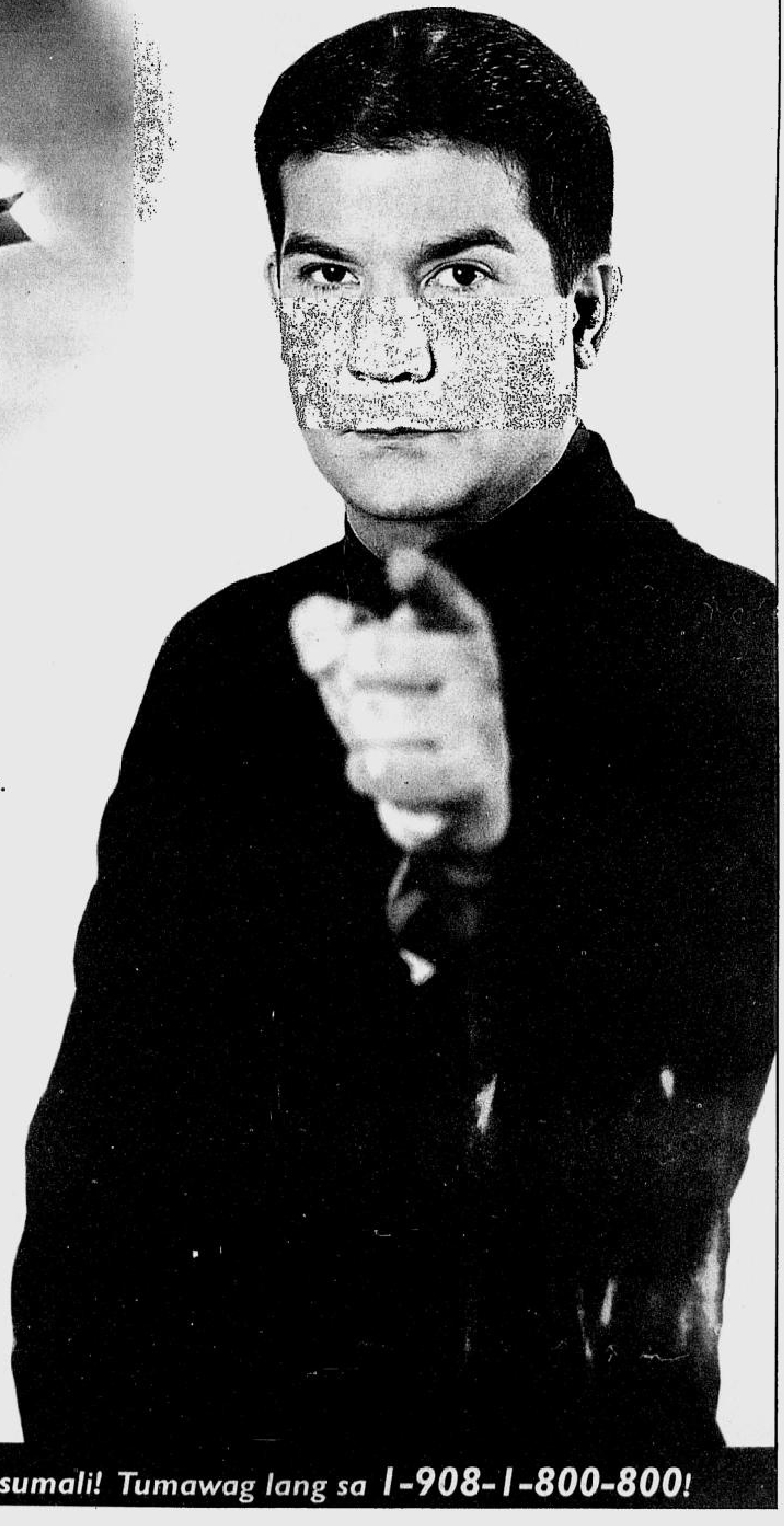

Walong contestant na hindi magkakakilala ang maglalaban-laban para makamit ang halagang maaaring umabot sa isang milyon. Bawat round ay may matatanggal sa labanan. Matira ang matibay sa tagisan ng talino at bilis. Isa lamang sa kanila ang maaaring manalo.

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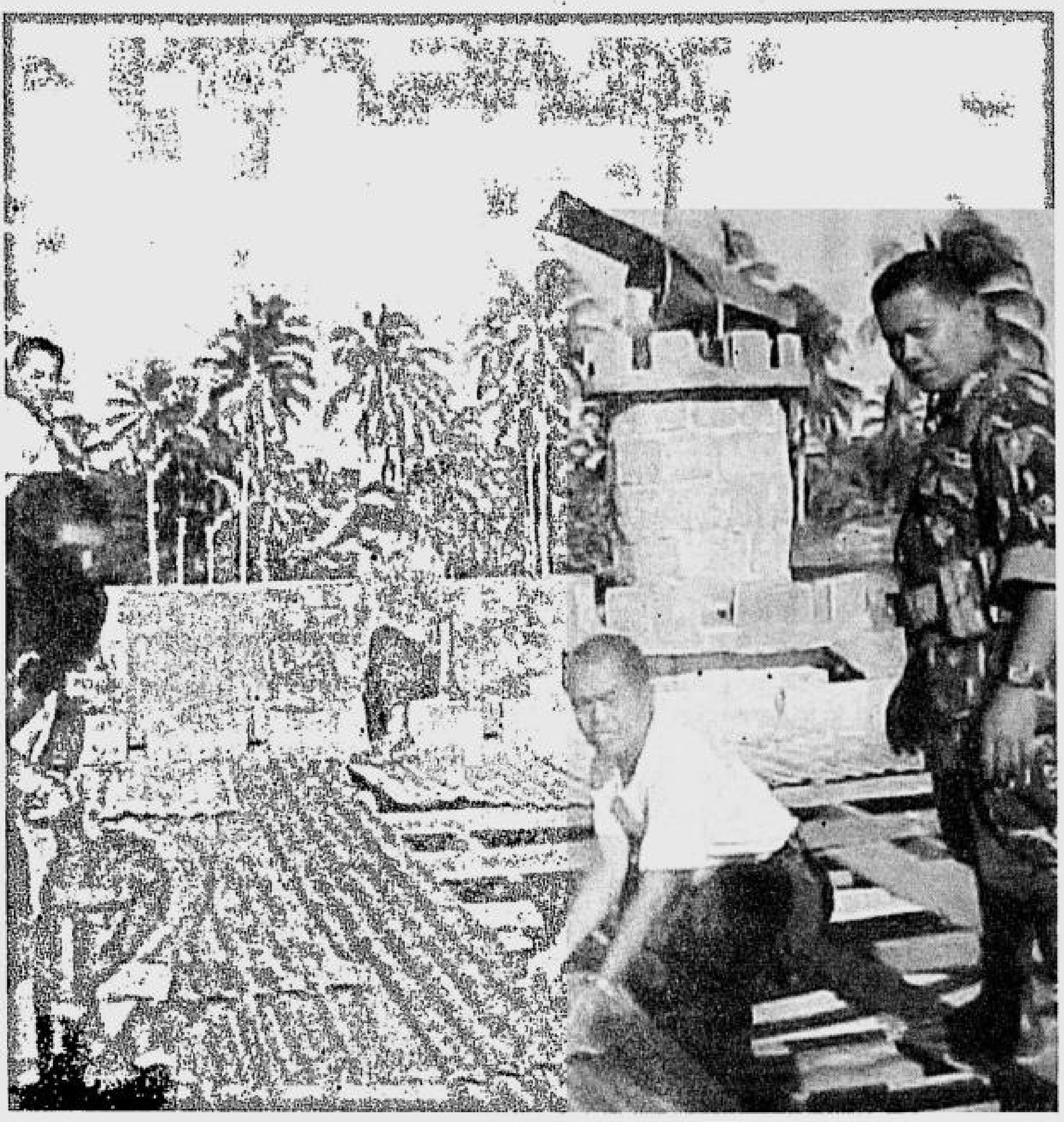
INQUIRER Mindanao
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ NICO A. ALCONABA, Bureau Chief



PASTOR Andy Ercia of the Full Gospel Evangelical Churches works on the roof of the mosque in Delabayan, Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte. BUTCH ENERIO

A Christian act for Muslim folk

BY BUTCH D. ENERIO
Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte

ON A NON-STOP mission to put a Muslim community back to its feet, Christians of different churches coming from as far as Laguna and Quezon in Luzon and some parts in Mindanao gathered in Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte, on Wednesday to show compassion to a people whose lives were ravaged by war.

Their brothers in faith in Northern Mindanao have started more than a year ago constructing houses for the people of Barangay Delabayan. The residents' homes were razed at the height of the government's all-out war against Moro rebels.

"We heard about the war that resulted in the dislocation of our brother Muslims in Mindanao and we want to do our part in reaching out to the Delabayan community and help them regain their dignity as a people," said Pastor Charlie Bautista of Nueva Ecija.

The visiting church people brought with them light building materials, water tanks, sacks of cement, tables and chairs, and grade school text books, among others.

What encouraged them to come to Delabayan, Bautista said, was the fact that they will not only build homes but also help build the lives of non-Christians, "which was more rewarding spiritually, because we were able to show to them that God's love knows no boundary."

Even as the war continued in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur, the True Gospel Evangelical Churches in Northern Mindanao organized a campaign to help the victims of war dubbed Islam or I Sincerely Love All Muslims.

The concept of the project is for the churches to further reach out to their Muslim brothers even while the government has yet to implement its housing project in the war-ravaged areas.

"Most of all, we wanted to show and make them understand that the war initiated by the government was not a religious war and that Allah for Islam and Isa (Jesus Christ) for Christians are one among us," said Army Maj. Johnny Macanas of the 4th Infantry Division, who is also a church member.

Kamlon Monder, barangay chair of Delabayan whose residence was one of the 110 houses that were burned, said the concern shown by the church people has touched them deeply.

"Were it not for their sustained assistance, it would be unimaginable for our community to rise from the ashes and for our people to live normal lives again," Moner said.

The Muslims in Delabayan thanked the church people.

"The selfless church people who left their own homes and attended to our needs and who have shown us that indeed there is no barrier between Muslims and Christians . . . and they will always be in our hearts," the residents said.

The church people also helped build a mosque.

"We found it incomplete for a people, whose lives are hinged on their belief in Allah, to live in a community without a holy place where they can commune and practice their religion, Thus, we found it a necessity for a mosque to be built within their midst," Macanas said.

Dr. Ray leads battle against malnutrition problem in Cotabato

BY ROSA-MAY V. DE GUZMAN
Kidapawan City

MINDANAO welcomed him seven years ago when he decided to settle on the island, particularly in M'lang, Cotabato.

"I have never given up on this," Dr. Ray Catague said, pointing to his new home after leaving faraway Iloilo.

It was also then that he decided to abandon an opportunity to become a rich and popular physician because he wants to be with the poor. "I can't see myself living in another place where there's no one to serve," he said.

True enough, public service has become synonymous with his name. Ask anyone in town and they'll cite Dr. Ray, as he is locally known.

As provincial health officer, Dr. Ray, 43, leads more than 20 staff members.

Service, dedication

Dr. Ray was very instrumental in the government's effort to reduce malnutrition in the province. He concocted a new item in the Nutri-Pak program of the Department of Health and called it "Nutri-Pak Calamay Hati Style."

A complete meal in itself, the Nutri-Pak Calamay consists of *kalamay*, ground rice or corn, *dilis*, mongo, coconut oil, sugar and sesame seeds.

Some even described the product as an indigenous alternative to the United Nations' "Nutri-Bun." The Nutri-Pak Calamay Hati style is rich in carbohydrates, protein, calcium, iodine, protein and fats.

The concoction has won a national award for Dr. Ray, who said all he wanted was to address the problem of malnutrition.

"I held a 7-month-old baby who only weighed like one liter of Coke. The mere sight of these babies makes my heart bleed," he said.

Awards, recognition

Dr. Ray's recipe continues to gain recognition.

It was chosen one of the top 10 innovations of the Local Performance Program (LLP) of the United States Assistance for International Development (USAid).

Indonesia has adopted the recipe to address a similarly high incidence of malnutrition there.

"I didn't know the Nutri-Pak Calamay Hati Style will be this popular," said Dr. Ray, who confessed to have only accidentally produced it.

Aside from helping address the malnutrition problem in the province, Dr. Ray is a staunch environmentalist. "Environment has a direct relationship with the people's physical, mental and psychological health," he said.

Public service has consumed so much of his time that his children wonder why he was early sometimes.

Normally, he arrives late, but with proper time management, he does not miss any opportunity to enjoy the company of his children.

"I play with my kids during weekends, we eat together as much as possible, we hear Mass, we travel, etc.," he said.

No wonder he was also cited for being an *ulirang ama* (model father).

Dr. Ray, a native of Iloilo, was born on April 13, 1958. His parents are the late Rodolfo Catague and Emma Longno.

After graduating from the West Visayas State University in Lapaz, Iloilo, in 1984, he started as a volunteer doctor at the 10-room Barotac Nuevo Municipal Hospital. He later moved to the Iloilo Doctors Hospital as a resident physician but said he was becoming obsessed with serving the poor.

Love story

In 1989, Dr. Ray flew all the way to Davao from Iloilo to meet his "prospective wife." His friends and relatives had been insisting that he was not getting any younger.

The deal was for him to be introduced to Liza, daughter of former assemblyman Ernesto Roldan, and if he felt something special for her, he should marry her right away.

Things just happened fast.

They found themselves marching down the aisle of the Sacred Heart Parish Church on April 27, 1989, in what Dr. Ray describe as "*nakisingit*" (gatecrasher).

It was originally the wedding of Liza's sister, but they decided to take the plunge also.

And how is that "instant" marriage after more than 12 years?

"Everyday we fall in love," Liza relates. "It was actually a test. I never expected I would fall for him in just a day. Call it a one-in-a-million love story. Besides, we were not getting any younger. I was 28 then while he was 30."

They have four children—Liz Marie, 11; Emily Rose, 10; Christopher Rodolf, 8; and Ernest Jesrey, 7.

Mission

Before Dr. Ray left Iloilo in 1994, he had received offers from big hospitals in Western Visayas.

"But I already know what I wanted for my life," he said.

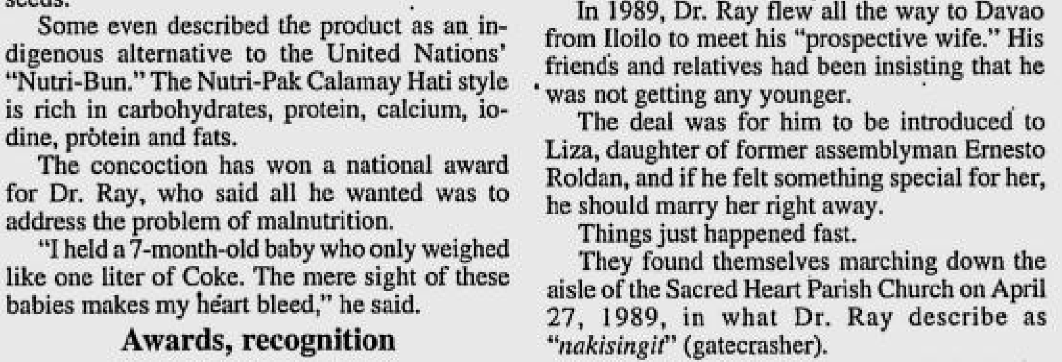
In M'lang, he served as municipal health officer from 1994 to 1998.

During one of his first visits to the communities, Dr. Ray said he knew that he had made the right decision.

People would tell him that it was their first time to see a doctor, he said.

He became a regular visitor to the villages even when Gov. Emmanuel Piñol appointed him provincial health officer in 1998.

For Dr. Ray, his mission is to offer whatever help he can give, to improve the people's health and lives.



DR. RAY teaches mothers how to make the "Nutri-Pak Calamay Hati Style," his contribution in addressing the malnutrition problem in Cotabato. ROSA-MAY DE GUZMAN

First in Asia!

ASIAN ETHNIC FOOD FEST 2001

23-25 November 2001, World Trade Center, Pasay City

TRENDIEST PACKAGING MAKE-OVER COMPETITION

It is hard to judge a book by its cover; but when it comes to purchasing a product, the packaging is a vital tool in communicating the brand's identity.

CITEM invites designers to participate in one of AEFF's special events, the **TRENDIEST PACKAGING MAKE-OVER Competition.** Emphasis should be given to the "before and after" packaging of existing food products. Participants are encouraged to conceptualize original, visually appealing designs, and translate them into three-dimensional packages of various shapes and dimensions.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. CONTESTANTS

1. The competition is open to all Filipino amateur and professional designers (18 to 30 years old).
2. Contestants are required to fill up the Entry Form (from CITEM), and submit a 1 x 1 ID photo (with name at the back), to the AEFF Secretariat, *Agrimarine Division, Operations Group* on or before **19 OCTOBER 2001.**
Entry Form and contest Rules and Regulations may also be downloaded from the CITEM website: **www.citem.com.ph.**
3. Only entry forms properly received by CITEM will qualify for the competition.

B. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. All entries should have at least one (1) prototype design for any of the four (4) product classifications:
   - **Tropical Fruit Preserves** (*nata de coco*/coconut gel, *halo-halo*, *kaong*/palmfruit, *ube*/purple yam, *langka*/jackfruit, and *macapuno*)
   - **Sauces/Seasoning** (*patis*/fish sauce, soy sauce, and *bagoong*/anchovy or shrimp paste)
   - **Tropical Fruit Juices** (mango, guyabano, guava, pineapple, tamarind, and passion fruit)
   - **Noodles** (*sotanghon*/cellophane noodles, *bihon*/rice noodles, and *pancit canton*/egg noodle)
2. Entries should have a specific theme that follows international trends and must be consumer/environment friendly.
3. Contestants may submit multiple entries but should have never won any local or international award prior to the competition. Contestants found in violation of this regulation will be automatically disqualified.
4. Entries must be submitted to the AEFF Secretariat not later than **16 NOVEMBER 2001.**
5. All entries automatically become the property of CITEM and may, therefore, be modified and used in any manner CITEM sees fit.

C. JUDGING

1. The Final Judging will take place on **23 NOVEMBER 2001, 2:00 pm.** during the Asian Ethnic Food Fest.
2. Entries will be judged according to:

Appropriateness of the design to the product	50%
Visual Impact / Attraction to Consumer	30%
Conformity to Mandatory Label & Packaging Requirements and Other Relevant Regulations	20%
TOTAL	100%

3. Only one winner per category will be chosen. Winners will be announced during the event and featured in COOK Magazine.

D. PRIZES

Cash prize from COOK Magazine, one-year free, subscription of COOK Magazine, and promotion during the Asian Ethnic Food Fest

For more information, contact:

Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM)
Golden Shell Pavilion, ITC Complex Roxas Boulevard, 1300 Pasay City
Tel: (632) 831. 1282 / 831. 2201 loc. 204 / 238
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How to secure the United States of America

NEW YORK—You are Tom Ridge, the first secretary of Homeland Security. Your job is to see to it that the United States is secure from terrorism.

This is what you must protect:

Almost 600,000 bridges, 170,000 water systems, more than 2,800 power plants (104 of them nuclear), 305,710 km of interstate pipelines for natural gas, 463 skyscrapers, nearly 32,180 km of border, airports, stadiums, train tracks, the food supply, schools and industries.

More than 285 million people, spread out over 9,666,259 sq km.

"If you start out defending the homeland with the premise that you're going to defend every high profile, highly vulnerable target—you lose," says Donald Hamilton, deputy director of the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism, in Oklahoma City.

"If you can't fill a yellow legal pad with hard-to-defend targets in 30 minutes, you're not thinking very hard. Oil pipelines, the Holland and Lincoln tunnels, the food supply . . . You could sink the whole national budget into trying to defend these things very quickly."

But this is not to say that Ridge—the former Pennsylvania governor who takes charge on Monday as the first head of the Office of Homeland Security—is on a fool's errand.

Experts on terrorism and on domestic security say the new department can accomplish a lot. It can coordinate the agencies already at work against terrorism; it can focus public attention on what needs to be done.

And most likely, it will lead the way to a less defensive approach to protecting Americans on these shores.

This will not be the old idea of civil defense. The one that sent New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia running around the country, warning of air raids in the days before World War II. Or, the one that featured an animated creature, Burt the Turtle, telling children to "duck and cover" in the event of nuclear attack in 1950.

Nor are Americans likely to hear instructions on how to dig our way to safety from nuclear attack, as they did early in the Reagan administration.

"Everybody's going to make it if there are enough shovels to go around . . . Dig a hole, cover it with a couple of doors and then throw three feet (90 centimeters) of dirt on top. It's the dirt that does it," said T.K. Jones, deputy undersecretary of defense, in 1981.

There has been a surge of interest in civil defense. The American Civil Defense Association, an advocacy and resource group based in Starke, Florida, had seen its membership drop below 1,000 in recent years. But its rolls have increased 30 percent since Sept. 11, says executive director Kathy Eiland.

"They're wanting to do something," Eiland says.

The fact is, much has been done already.

Simulation

Michael Greenberger, a law professor at the University of Maryland, was principal associate deputy attorney general from 1999 to 2001. He planned a simulation in which top Cabinet and government officials responded to a crisis in three cities.

This was a full dress rehearsal, with actors hired to play roles in all three cities, and a mock television network set up to cover the "emergency."

Obviously, it did nothing to prevent the events of Sept. 11. But Greenberger says the terrorist attacks "put in motion" a lot of security plans that had been at the ready.

Ridge's most important role, Greenberger says, is to coordinate the activities of 40 federal agencies devoted to public security. In the past, they've often been competitors.

"Somebody has to play the referee, somebody has to be the mediator, somebody has to be the coach," he says.

He likens Ridge's position to that of Condoleezza Rice, President George W. Bush's chief national security adviser.

Ridge will get things done because he has the president's ear, Greenberger says. A Homeland Security bureaucracy, he says, "would just waste a lot of valuable time."

Ridge can be an advocate for the funds and resources needed to face the threat. The FBI, for instance, has long sought more translators; now, the urgency is apparent.

Ridge can help recruit the brainpower needed to make America secure, perhaps turning to a technology industry that has been ravaged by the downturn, Greenberger says.

Gaps to fill

There are overlaps to eliminate and gaps to fill. There are cultural differences to transcend.

"Different agencies go about their tasks very differently," says Ric Stoll, a political science professor at Rice University in Houston.

He recalls that during riots in Los Angeles, the National Guard was called in to help the police. At one point, policemen asked the guardsmen to cover them as they went in for an arrest; they were surprised when the guard raked the area with gunfire.

To the police, "cover" meant "watch our backs." To the soldiers, it meant "lay down fire."

The police are trained to make arrests after a crime has been committed and investigated; the military is trained to act against a perceived threat—a useful mindset when the object is to thwart terrorists, but a controversial inclination in terms of civil liberties.

Defense, security

The very origin of the phrase "homeland security" provides a clue to the road that Americans are following.

William Martel, a professor of national security affairs at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, says "homeland defense" was a concept that was often used in recent years by the military in connection with the missile defense system supported by the US administration.

Martel says the first reaction to the Sept. 11 attacks is defensive—to rachet up security wherever we are vulnerable.

This is what has happened. As National Guard troops have patrolled airports, backpacks have been forbidden at football games, drivers who transport hazardous materials have undergone background checks, more surveillance cameras have been posted on rail platforms, campers and mobile homes have been detoured from places like the Hoover Dam.

Martel says the second reaction, a prime responsibility of the Office of Homeland Security, is offensive. The job will be to marshal every tool available—legal, financial, diplomatic, military, and especially intelligence—to thwart terrorists before they can strike.

"They have to be much more proactive to stop the threat from coming to this country," says Bronius Cikotas, a former nuclear weapons designer and now a member of the board of the American Civil Defense Association.

Civil liberties

But some of the methods that might be used are anathema to civil libertarians.

"We're going to have to have a national debate, and people are going to have to decide" whether these are steps that must be taken, says Donald Hamilton, the former adviser to the National Commission on Terrorism who now works for the anti-terrorism institute in Oklahoma City.

Hamilton thinks that this, too, will be an aspect of Ridge's job—framing and fostering the debate on civil liberties.

For example, he cites proposals for a national identification card. He likes the idea: "People are going to discover the ancillary benefits real quickly. Hey, this is a wonderful tool for tracking deadbeat dads."

And yet he recognizes Americans would be giving up something that is "almost palpable—the ability to leave, go elsewhere, start over."

The same goes for tougher immigration policies and more scrutiny of communications. The easy part of homeland security, Hamilton says, may be instituting these changes. The hard part may be arriving at a national consensus so these changes can go forward.

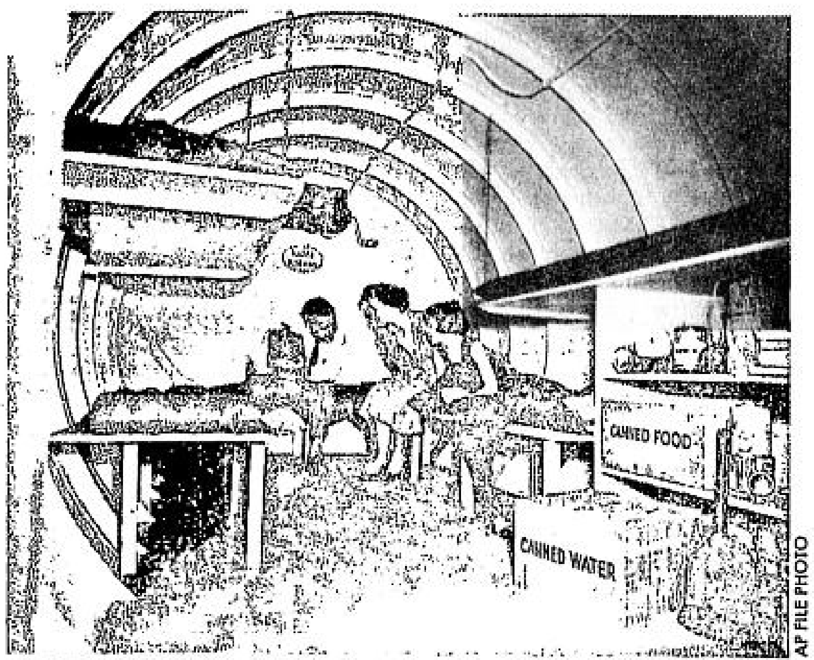
But that consensus took a mighty leap forward on Sept. 11.

No joke

In previous incarnations, civil defense was sometimes seen as a joke. The Japanese and Germans never did mount real attacks on the US coasts; the Soviets never did lob a nuclear warhead toward the bomb shelters built during the Cold War.

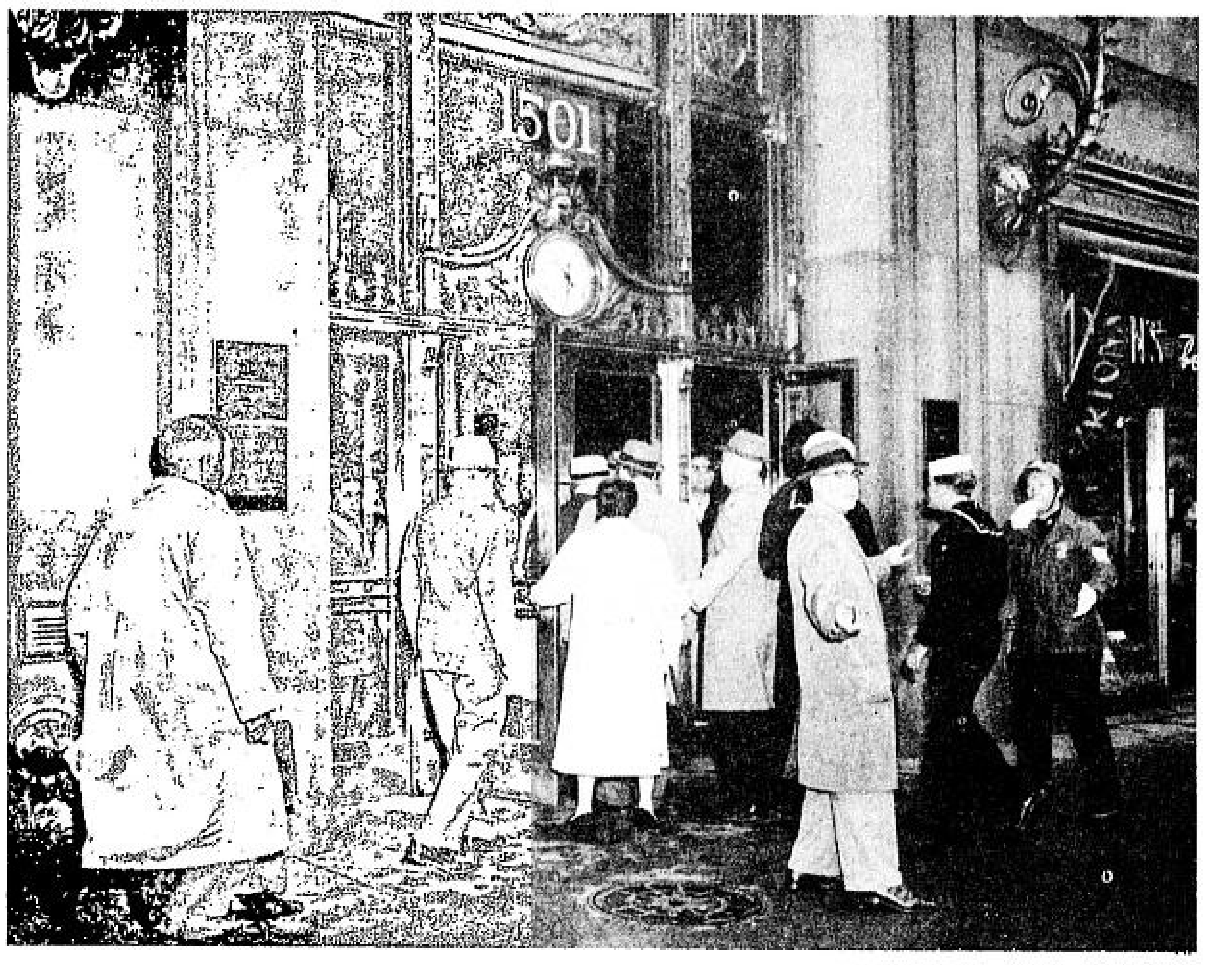
This time, as Tom Ridge takes office, the threat is real, and obvious.

"Before, it was just the policy crowd that paid attention to this," says Martel of the Naval War College. "Now, American society has coalesced around the danger." *AP*



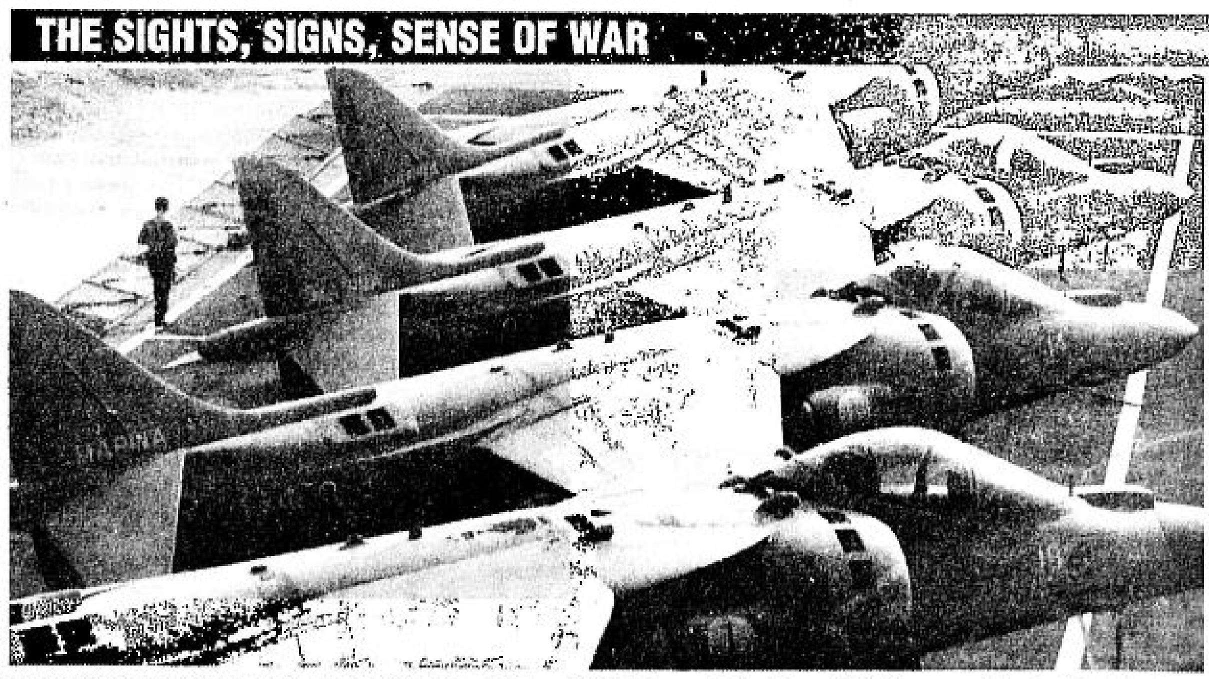
AP FILE PHOTO

H-BOMB shelter in 1955 complete with bunk beds, canned food, water and radiation detector became the butt of jokes as the Cold War thawed.



HOMELAND security circa 1958: Pedestrians are guided into an office building in New York during a practice air-raid alert. The United States' new Office of Homeland Security which is now in operation will likely be looking for less defensive and more offensive approaches to protecting Americans in their own soil.

THE SIGHTS, SIGNS, SENSE OF WAR



TRAINING exercises codenamed "Destined Glory 2001" have started for 10 Nato countries in the Western Mediterranean. Part of the "glory" are Italian jets on the deck of the Italian aircraft carrier Garibaldi in Palma de Malloraca in Spain.

NORTHERN Alliance, also known as the United Front, prepares for the offensive against the Taliban in coordination with the United States. It is expecting fresh arms supplies from two of its strongest allies in the fight against the Taliban: Iran and Russia.

DEMAND for Bin Laden's photos shoot up in Quetta on the outskirts of Pakistan's border with Afghanistan. AFP

LONG
LIVE
TALIBAN
J.U.I

VOWING to fight side by side with the Taliban and support Osama bin Laden, Pakistanis stage an anti-US demonstration at Peshawar on Saturday. AFP

Taliban surrounded

(From page A1)

Shevardnadze said Friday after meeting Bush at the White House.

Shevardnadze, who was Soviet foreign minister during Moscow's disastrous 1979-1989 campaign in Afghanistan, signed on to Bush's anti-terror drive, pledging full support.

Bush's strategy has been presented as a long-term, multi-pronged campaign that, apart from military muscle, would also involve financially strangling identified terrorist organizations and pooling intelligence from other countries and between US agencies to thwart plots.

The United States and its allies are seeking support from governments in the Muslim heartland of the Middle East, North Africa and South and Central Asia for a crackdown on Bin Laden, his al-Qaida terrorist network and his Taliban allies.

Blair offensive

Blair on Friday visited Pakistan—the former ally and supplier of the Taliban—and met with President Gen. Pervez Musharraf on Friday night to discuss the makeup of a post-Taliban government.

Blair, who leads a country with substantial Pakistani and Muslim populations, said his visit to Islamabad was "part of making sure that around Afghanistan we have all the people supporting us.

"The purpose is to ensure that we have a trap set around Afghanistan in which everyone supports the things we need to do," he said.

Blair assured Islamic communities in Pakistan and elsewhere that the coming military campaign would not become a Western war against Islam or Afghans.

"Any action we take is not against the Afghan people, who are his victims, too," Blair said, referring to Bin Laden.

He said the terrorist attacks were "an outrage against the civilized values of all peoples of all faiths in the world."

The Taliban ambassador to Pakistan, however, branded Blair's visit to Islamabad a provocation. Pakistan is the only country that recognizes the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

"Tony Blair has come to encourage war," Ambassador Abdul Salam Zaeef said. "We have no message for him. Had he come for negotiations and talks, then we would have liked to have said something."

Musharraf's decision to support the United States has angered some Muslims in his nation of 145 million, and thousands have demonstrated against the possibility that attacks upon neighboring Afghanistan might be staged from Pakistan.

Several thousand people held a noisy anti-American protest Friday in nearby Rawalpindi. In the southern city of Multan, at least 15,000 Islamic activists, many holding portraits of Bin Laden, also protested Musharraf's stand.

Notwithstanding the anti-US demonstrations, Blair on Saturday traveled to India, Pakistan's regional rival that also has a substantial Muslim population, on the last leg of his whirlwind tour to bolster support for the war on terrorism.

Similar efforts

Further north, similar efforts were under way.

The leader of Uzbekistan, a former Soviet republic on Afghanistan's northern border, granted permission Friday for US warplanes and troops to use an Uzbek air base. The US Army dispatched 1,000 infantry soldiers.

But President Islam Karimov, after meeting with US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in Tashkent, made clear he wasn't offering an open endorsement for US military action conducted from his country.

He also said no US special operations forces would be allowed to operate from Uzbek territory.

"In Uzbekistan, we are against the use of our territory for land operations against Afghanistan, and we are against air strikes from the territory of Uzbekistan," he said.

"I envisage that the equipment will be used for humanitarian operations and for search-and-rescue operations."

In exchange for cooperation, Karimov said Uzbekistan was seeking security guarantees.

Why the delay?

The delay in US strikes has been attributed to the complexity of the task—fighting a shadowy, amorphous network of terrorist groups and locating Bin Laden.

There is also the risk that the US strikes might trigger other terror attacks.

The Washington Post newspaper on Friday quoted an unnamed US official telling members of Congress that new intelligence indicated there was a "100-percent" chance of further terror attacks if strikes took place.

US authorities are particularly worried over the potential for crop-dusting aircraft and trucks to be used in biological or chemical assaults on targets in the United States.

Those fears crystallized for the US public when a Florida man died Friday from an anthrax infection.

Authorities insist the case, involving a very rare bacterium that can be used as a biological weapon, had nothing to do with terrorists.

There were other incidents reportedly unrelated to terrorists. Two trucks hauling military cargoes—one carrying explosive powder, the other eight missiles—crashed in separate accidents in Maryland and West Virginia, spilling their loads.

"Every piece of information says it was a coincidence, but we are astonished at the coincidences," said John Randt, a military traffic spokesperson.

While nerves jangled in the United States and elsewhere, clouds of economic gloom grew bigger.

With unemployment since the attacks climbing to a nine-year-high, Bush on Friday called for Congress to push through a $60-billion tax cut to encourage Americans to spend their way out of what is starting to look like a sudden and deep recession.

Who's a terrorist?

Some cracks also appeared in US plans to create a unified, international front to back its new policies, most notably when the UN General Assembly wound up five days of debate on terrorism without agreeing on a draft resolution on the topic.

Much of the problem was the inability of the 189 member states to concur on a definition of who is a terrorist.

That in part stemmed from a feeling among some Arab countries that the Palestinian fight against Israeli occupation should not be branded with the terrorism brush.

The whole Israel-Palestinian issue got politically hotter Friday when Washington berated Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for accusing the West of thinking about appeasing the Arabs in the same way it appeased Adolf Hitler by allowing Nazi Germany to occupy Czechoslovakia.

Sharon's officials tried to downplay the comments Saturday in a bid to mend fences with Washington.

The United States is being careful not to side too heavily with Israel in a bid to woo Muslim nations into its coalition and avoid the appearance of its new campaign being presented as an anti-Islam crusade.

Reports from AP and AFP

Thrill gone for arriving US troops

(From page A1)

That is, if the reports from bar managers and pimps here are to be believed.

But starting mid-September, women in their 20s and 30s have been flocking to Fields Avenue asking to be taken in as dancers and waitresses, three managers of the biggest, flashiest bars here confirmed.

"We are not preparing for their comeback," said Trudes Credo, president of the League of Angeles City Entertainers and Managers (Lacem). Fields Avenue is reportedly no longer obsessed with the possible return of its greenbacks-paying habitués.

Credo attributed the supposedly less-than-enthusiastic anticipation for the Americans to the new clientele that the city's entertainment district has attracted, and to economics.

New market niche

For the past 10 years, Fields Avenue has developed a new market niche.

In its makeover after the closure of nearby Clark Air Base and the devastating eruption of Mt. Pinatubo, which both occurred in 1991, it has steadily drawn European and Asian "tourists."

They have replaced the troops that entertainers, protesting in the nude in 1991, had wanted to remain at Clark when the Philippine Senate junked the extension of the RP-US Military Bases Agreement, according to Credo.

Also, in the past three years, Credo said, American soldiers don't splurge the way they used to.

American soldiers during breaks from joint military exercises held under the auspices of the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) spend only on mineral water or on less inexpensive drinks, said a pimp who has worked out of Fields Avenue in the last 27 years.

"They don't have fat budgets," lamented the pimp, who wanted to be known only as Mommy Edith.

New rules

Unlike before, VFA soldiers don't swarm the place anymore. A low of 30 to a high of 1,000 American soldiers come around during the military exercises that last from two weeks to one month. There are many rules to follow.

"They don't hang around too long. They only stay up to 11 p.m. because they're expected back at their hotels inside Clark before midnight. They do manage to bring the women to their hotels but that's rare and done very discreetly," Mommy Edith said.

"These (VFA exercises) do not offer bright business prospects because only a few establishments—the high-end, exclusive types—are preferred," a bar manager said.

But the women's group Pagkakaisa ng Kababaihan para sa Inang Bayan (Kaisaka), thinks otherwise. The VFA exercises, they said, did not help any to retire this city's stigma as "Sin City."

Citing government reports, Kaisaka said that in 1998, Fields Avenue had only 2,623 registered entertainment workers. The number reached 4,778 in December 1999 or six months after the VFA was ratified.

Downplayed

While Credo downplayed the local excitement generated in the rest and recreation industry by the plan of the US to use Clark and Subic in Zambales for refueling and transshipment, several pimps did indeed confirm the trend that Kaisaka noted.

What ever happened to the 'star' witness?

(From page A1)

anti-crime slogans.

"They just came in," Mawanay said. "So far we have received two batches of 50 pieces each."

Before the interview, this reporter received a text message from him offering the T-shirts at prices ranging from P130 to P200.

He said he intended to share the proceeds with other crime witnesses under the care of Isafp.

Hard life

"A witness' life is hard," Mawanay said. "I pity the children especially. There is no means of livelihood here. We have no way to support our families."

He said he applied for the Witness Protection Program (WPP) of the Department of Justice as early as the first week of August, hoping that his family would be allowed another chance to live normally.

This was after he had spent nearly five weeks moving from one unfamiliar place to another, hiding from persons he feared would hurt his family, before Corpus took him in and housed him in the Isafp compound.

Two months after filing his application, Mawanay is losing hope about being included in the WPP at all.

"First, I was told that if I pass my lie detector test, I would be included. Then, I was told to pass a drug test, which I did. Finally, a neuro-psychiatric exam, which I also passed," he said in Taglish.

"I received assurances that after I passed these tests, I would be taken in. But until now, there is no word from the DOJ," he complained.

Mawanay said he chanced upon Justice Secretary Hernando Perez the second time he was called to the Senate to testify on Lacson's alleged involvement in illegal drugs.

"I asked the secretary whether he got my application. I did not get a definite reply. I recall he said something vague about not knowing its status and that it is probably being handled by one of his undersecretaries. But nothing definite," Mawanay said.

The INQUIRER tried to contact Perez yesterday afternoon following Mawanay's interview. His mobile phone was switched to voice mail mode.

In process

Perez's media consultant Raul Francia told the INQUIRER that Mawanay's application was "being processed."

According to Francia, the DOJ as a matter of policy accepts witnesses into its protection program only when they are ready to testify in cases already filed in court.

Francia pointed out that Mawanay had yet to file a criminal charge against Lacson in court.

"Since he is not a witness in any court case, he still does not belong to the jurisdiction of the WPP," Francia said. "He is only a witness in a Senate investigation, and the Senate does not fall within our jurisdiction."

Adding to his woes, Mawanay said his "reliable sources" told him that the DOJ recently accepted a low-ranking police officer into the program.

The cop supposedly offered to testify about Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop's alleged involvement in illegal drugs.

"I heard that the police officer is now under the custody of the DOJ, and that it only took two weeks to process his application," he said.

Mawanay is obviously demoralized. More than fear and boredom, he said, the uncertainty of a bright future for his two sons was bothering him most.

"If the DOJ refuses to take me in, I hope the officials would give it to me straight so I can plan a future that does not factor in government protection," he said.

Mawanay also said Corpus once told him that the Isafp could not pressure the DOJ to accept him.

"But Colonel Corpus continues to assure me of my status as a witness. He insists I am a witness and am entitled to government protection," Mawanay said.

For now, the protection that the DOJ cannot give Mawanay is being provided by Corpus.

Taliban units dig into high ground

(From page A1)

in a valley, to dig into defensive positions on higher ground.

Passing time seems to have polarized positions in the southern city, stronghold of Mullah Omar Mohammed, the supreme Taliban ruler who has refused to deliver Osama bin Laden in spite of the threat of US retaliation.

"Kandahar is almost empty, and everyone remaining there is afraid," said Bashir Ahmed, 27, a trader who shaved off his Taliban-imposed beard the moment he reached Pakistan. "No one knows what will happen tomorrow."

Others who declared themselves happy to be free of the extremist Muslim leaders painted a similar picture: closed shops, confusion fed by fear and increasing severity by authorities.

But Yar Mohammed, a 26-year-old laborer, offered a different version. People are tired, he said, but morale is high.

"Everyone suffers hardship because Pakistan has closed the border," he said. "But we are ready for anything. We are happy because Americans will lose this fight. Their days are numbered."

Taliban authorities will never surrender Bin Laden, he said, adding: "We will do everything for the safety and security of our guest."

As he spoke, the first trucks carrying 5,000 tons of UN World Food Program grain trundled over the high mountain pass from Quetta, Pakistan, toward Kandahar. The US government donated most of the grain.

Reminded of this, Mohammed dismissed the food aid as "the politics of America." He tossed a turbaned head and added: "Don't worry, you can stop."

In theory, the border is closed, but a steady stream of trucks and cars manage to cross, either with special permission or because of cash pressed into the right palms.

The no man's land between Afghanistan and Pakistan teems with trade and turmoil. Merchants deliver staples to Afghans who bring luxury goods smuggled across other borders.

Because of the sporadic traffic, no predominant point of view is clear. Anti-Taliban Afghans mostly tend to keep their opinions to themselves.

But young radicals in their black turbans or colorful skullcaps leave no doubt about their feelings.

Noor Ahmed, 18, at first said the Americans had provided no proof that Bin Laden was responsible for the Sept. 11 terror attacks on New York and Washington.

Then, warming to his rhetoric, he said the killing of thousands of innocent people was justified because, he said, "America interfered in Afghanistan's affairs."

Ahmed stopped denying that Bin Laden was responsible and added, instead, that if the United States did not stay out of Afghanistan the same thing would happen again.

"If America continues, we will do what we can do," he said.

All the travelers had similar accounts of Taliban troop movements toward the mountains, although details were sparse.

In Quetta, UN officials in contact with their Afghan workers confirmed that military preparations were evident, including the forced conscription of young men from all ethnic groups.

One European UN official said the Taliban militia was drafting youths from ethnic minorities with the apparent intention of placing them in front-line positions.

At the border, Faiz Khan, a 45-year-old truck driver, said he felt certain that a majority of Afghans wanted the return of their aged king, Mohammad Zaher Shah, to put in place a different government.

Also, he said, people wanted a traditional council—the old style of representative democracy via tribal chiefs—to plot out the future.

He said military columns had taken arms and ammunition to the mountains, while people left in the crippled city seemed fearful.

Whatever happens, he said, most people want it to happen soon.

Asked why he wore no beard, Khan laughed. "The Taliban is busy with other things," he said. *AP*

Thanks to her, the poor need not worry about flu

(From page A1)

sity of the Philippines in 1944, she worked at the Quezon Institute, focusing her practice on taking care of people with tuberculosis.

Most of her patients came from poor communities in Metro Manila and nearby provinces and from them she discovered a "disease" that was probably far more serious and widespread than tuberculosis. Most doctors hardly reached out to the sick and were basically content to just wait for patients, Mita recalls.

But tuberculosis patients were too poor to travel to Manila to get a decent treatment, she lamented.

During animated discussions with other doctors, she often reminded them that education was not intended for personal consumption or gratification.

"We should share it," she would tell them.

Disappointed with the growing apathy of her peers, Mita embarked on an ambitious mission and took the road less traveled. She invited a couple of friends, mostly young doctors, to join her in a series of medical missions in the provinces aimed primarily at educating the poor on preventive medicine.

In the provinces, she realized, the problem was far worse than she had imagined. People died of the simplest ailments due to poverty and recklessness. Hospitals and doctors were hardly available. Residents were at a loss. They were sick and dying.

"There were those who lived and died without even seeing a doctor," she said.

By this time, Mita, a descendant of the illustrious Pardo de Tavera clan, knew her mission in life: to be a doctor for the poor.

Centerpiece program

Years later the health program became very popular in the provinces, and more and more doctors and health workers volunteered to join her cause. This enabled her to establish Akap, a group of health volunteers devoted to the treatment and education of the poor.

The program became more far-reaching when Mita fused the activities of Akap with that of the Quezon Institute and the Philippine Tuberculosis Society.

In September 1978, Mita presented before a forum in Belgium a paper titled, "A Model of Community Participation in the Prevention and Short-Term Therapy of Tuberculosis Among the Poor in Asia: A Philippine Experience." Thus the centerpiece of Mita's health program was born.

The paper proposed the publication of handy illustrated manuals that would teach preventive medicine to the poor in the easiest way possible. The proposal, a first in Asia, came into being four years later through a P4-million grant from the Netherlands.

It actually took Mita decades to come up with the idea. In her many medical missions all over the country, she realized that volunteers had to speak the language of the poor to make them understand the value of preventive medicine. But no matter how hard they tried to reach out, volunteers could not effectively communicate with the poor the many technicalities of the medical field. And they could not provide reading materials because many rural folk did not know how to read.

Manuals for the poor

With the Akap manuals, which Mita described as books that "speak the language of the poor," even the uneducated can understand lessons in medicine by simply looking at the illustrations.

"Lack of proper education should not really prevent one from learning," Mita points out.

There are two sets of manuals written in conversational English and Filipino. Each set has 85 booklets divided in six color themes for specific purposes.

Yellow booklets contain information on the gastrointestinal system, including tips on dealing with diarrhea, constipation and intestinal worms. Golden yellow manuals deal with drowning, asthma, bronchopneumonia, colds and flu, and other respiratory-related ailments. Red booklets tackle first-aid procedures on food poisoning, snakebites and the like. Peach booklets are about epilepsy, acupuncture and injections. Aqua booklets deal with medicinal plants. And the blue ones give tips on handling cholera, malaria, measles, rabies, meningitis, tuberculosis, polio and even leprosy.

These manuals serve as "textbooks" for those attending Mita's sessions on preventive medicine.

Learning preventive medicine

Akap usually goes to a depressed community, surveys the area and invites residents to attend a free two-week seminar on preventive medicine. Participants receive diplomas and sometimes kits containing a thermometer, stethoscope and other basic medical equipment. The graduates are expected to serve as health workers and educate their respective communities on basic medicine.

During the last three decades, Mita has produced thousands of health workers who spread the good news of preventive medicine.

Akap provides a similar seminar to inmates at the National Bilibid Prisons, not so much to turn them into health workers but to make them conscious of their health.

Just weeks before the resurgence of the flu, Mita's team conducted a seminar for 14 residents at the Philippine National Railways compound in Bangkal, Makati.

After only six days of training, participants like Prima Cagaluwan, 29, Elena Evite, 44, and Lourdes Lumen, 40, had become effective "medical consultants" in their area. Neighbors come to them about cough, colds and flu and other common ailments. To avoid being labeled as quack doctors, they ask their "patients" to consult real doctors if symptoms persist.

Unlike doctors whom Mita had somehow despised 50 years ago, these volunteers actively seek patients in need of medical assistance. More importantly, they educate their community on the importance of a clean environment and the hazards of smoking and excessive drinking.

"We're not doctors but we take care of our neighbors," Cagaluwan beams. "And we love what we're doing."

Cagaluwan and her peers already know how to check blood pressure, pulse rate and even deliver babies. By the time they graduate, they are expected to know basic and practical information about medicine.

Looking back, Mita—who was gifted with a rich lady's look and a poor woman's heart—is proud of a life well lived and a profession dedicated to the poor. She's not about to retire from community work, knowing fully well that her mission is far from over.

An award she received from a Quezon City community last month probably best describes her working principle in life. Engraved in the plaque was a quote from Kahlil Gibran: "You give little when you give of your possession; it is when you give yourself that you truly live."

He spent his last hours with strangers

(From page A1)

Aurelio were given the task of formally identifying the patient. But they came upon a body that was bloated and unrecognizable, and that had hairy legs, bigger feet and totally different toenails.

Ramon stood less than 5 feet tall and had no hair on his legs. Also, his feet were about three sizes smaller than that of the patient.

The family was convinced that this was not Ramon, and told hospital officials so.

Personal effects

But the officials were adamant, and presented to the family a brown envelope containing Ramon's watch, diamond ring and wedding band with the name of his wife Nenita inscribed on it.

Upon recognizing his personal belongings, the family realized that he had indeed been taken to the hospital and started weeping.

Through their tears they asked if they could see the other patients who were brought by the same ambulance. The hospital officials refused, saying that "all have been accounted for by their families" and that "maybe, in times of extreme grief when people want to believe something so strongly, they imagine things."

But Nenita and her sister Mina did not give up. Daily they demanded to know what really happened to Ramon.

Soon the medical examiner, with the help of dental records submitted by the Grihalvos, told Nenita about a "mix-up" and offered to contact a Chinese-American family who at that time had just buried their dead.

After convincing the other family that there had been a case of switched identities, the medical examiner's office ordered the other body exhumed.

It was indeed Ramon's.

The family was told that Ramon died only on the morning of Sept. 15 and that the family of the other patient had visited him daily until he died.

Now the Grihalvos' grief is laced with anger that they were robbed of their final moments with him.

Oct. 10 birthday

Ramon would have turned 59 on Oct. 10.

His body was cremated on Sept. 29 after a memorial mass.

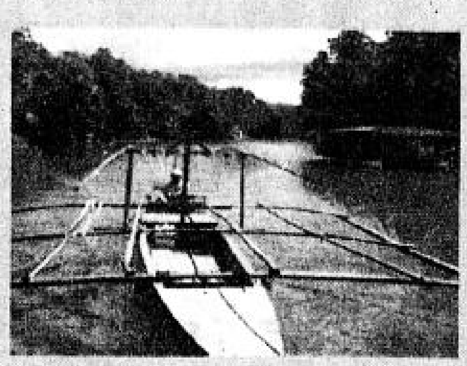
The ashes will be interred today (Oct. 6 in New York) at the Pine Lawn Cemetery in Long Island.

Ramon, a native of Arevalo, Iloilo City, was a mechanical engineering graduate of the University of San Agustin. He practiced his profession as a mechanical engineer before working for Blue Cross as a computer programmer.

Seventeen Filipinos are still missing and, like thousands of other nationals, presumed dead in the rubble.

They are Grace Alegre-Cua, Arnold Lim, Hector Tamayo, Carl Allen Peralta, Cynthia Betita Tinio Motus-Wilson, Benilda Domingo, Jayceryll de Chavez, Marlyn Bautista, Maria Theresa (Marites) Santillan, Judy Hazel Fernandez, Frederick Kuo Jr., Cesar Alviar, Rufino C. Santos, David Sullins, Manuel Lopez, Larry Sumaya and Cecilia Caguicla.

Around Captivating Bohol in a Day



Leave Cebu just after daybreak. Arriving in Tagbilaran, capital of Bohol, we take you on a tour to the Blood compact marker, Baclayon Church & museum, Clarin Ancestral house, and the Chocolate Hills. Lunch is onboard a floating restaurant cruising down Loboc River then see the world's smallest monkey, the Tarsier.

Overnight combo- package is available.

Serene Panglao Day Tour

Spend the day frolicking along white sand beaches, taking dips in the blue waters of Panglao Island. Your trip leaves early in the morning to get you to Panglao at the optimum time to catch the best rays. If you have total rest and relaxation in mind, this is just the thing for you.

Bohol Beach Club

Moonlighting in Panglao

Leave for Tagbilaran at twilight. Whether you choose to stay the night at Bohol Beach Club or Crystal Coast Resort, we guarantee a night to remember. Breakfast is served at 8 a.m. the following morning. Then spend the day as you wish. Back in Cebu that night relaxed and ready to tackle the real world again.

Tagbilaran Overnight Affair

Bohol Tropics Resort

Ideal for the hardworking professionals. Rest your weary bones at the secluded Bohol Tropics Resort, away from the worries of work and the everyday grind. Kick back and enjoy your little getaway right by the pool.

Bohol Learning Experience Tour

Man Made Fores

You start off to the town of Loay, watch craftspeople weave nipa and make furniture. Head to the Chocolate Hills and behold the sight of a thousand haycock hills. Savor lunch while cruising the Loboc River. Then explore Hinagdanan cave, if you opt to stay overnight, you get to see the Tarsier, the following morning.

ISLAND SKIP TRIPS

CAPTIVATING

Bohol

Accredited

Island Skip Trips is the Travel Package Program of Philippine Fast Ferry Corporation.

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Jordan plays point

WILMINGTON, North Carolina — Michael Jordan spent time playing point guard during training camp as coach Doug Collins used him alongside Richard Hamilton and Courtney Alexander.

"I'll get to run some point," Jordan said Friday night. "With two scorers like Courtney and Rip, obviously with all three of us on the court, one of us can play point and the other two are going to be in scoring position."

The Wizards brought in free agent point guard Tyronn Lue over the summer, and he will compete for minutes with last season's starter, Chris Whitney.

But there also will be times when the Wizards will go against convention and use Jordan, Alexander and Hamilton as the primary ball-handlers. Friday night marked the first time they experimented with that alignment in practice.

"They got out and ran. Rip is so fast in the open court, Michael threw it ahead and they just attacked," Collins said. "I told them: 'Whoever's got it, push it, and the other two guys just run.'"

Jordan has played without a natural point guard in the past. With the Chicago Bulls during the late '90s, Scottie Pippen was the primary ballhandler in the triangle offense.

But the Wizards will not be running the triangle, and Jordan will find himself in a more conventional offense for the first time in more than a decade.

Collins has indicated that sometimes he will run the offense through Jordan in the low post. Other times, they'll try to push the ball upcourt and try to create transition baskets.

Jordan said his teammates are benefiting from playing alongside him on the court. *AP*

Rodman wants to join MJ

LOS ANGELES —At age 40, seven-time NBA rebounding champion Dennis Rodman is attempting to making another comeback.

Asked if he'd be wearing an NBA uniform in the near future, Rodman said "absolutely, absolutely" during an interview on Fox Sports Net television Friday night.

Rodman, who played on championship teams in Chicago with Michael Jordan from 1996-98, said he had spoken "a couple times" with Jordan about possibly coming back with the Washington Wizards, as Jordan is doing.

"I've talked to a couple teams," said Rodman, who hasn't played in the NBA since the Dallas Mavericks released him after 13 games late in the 1999-00 season. *AP*

Malone inducted

SPRINGFIELD, Massachusetts — Moses Malone was humbled by his induction into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

"What is a superstar?" Malone asked Friday night. "I was just a player, just a hard worker."

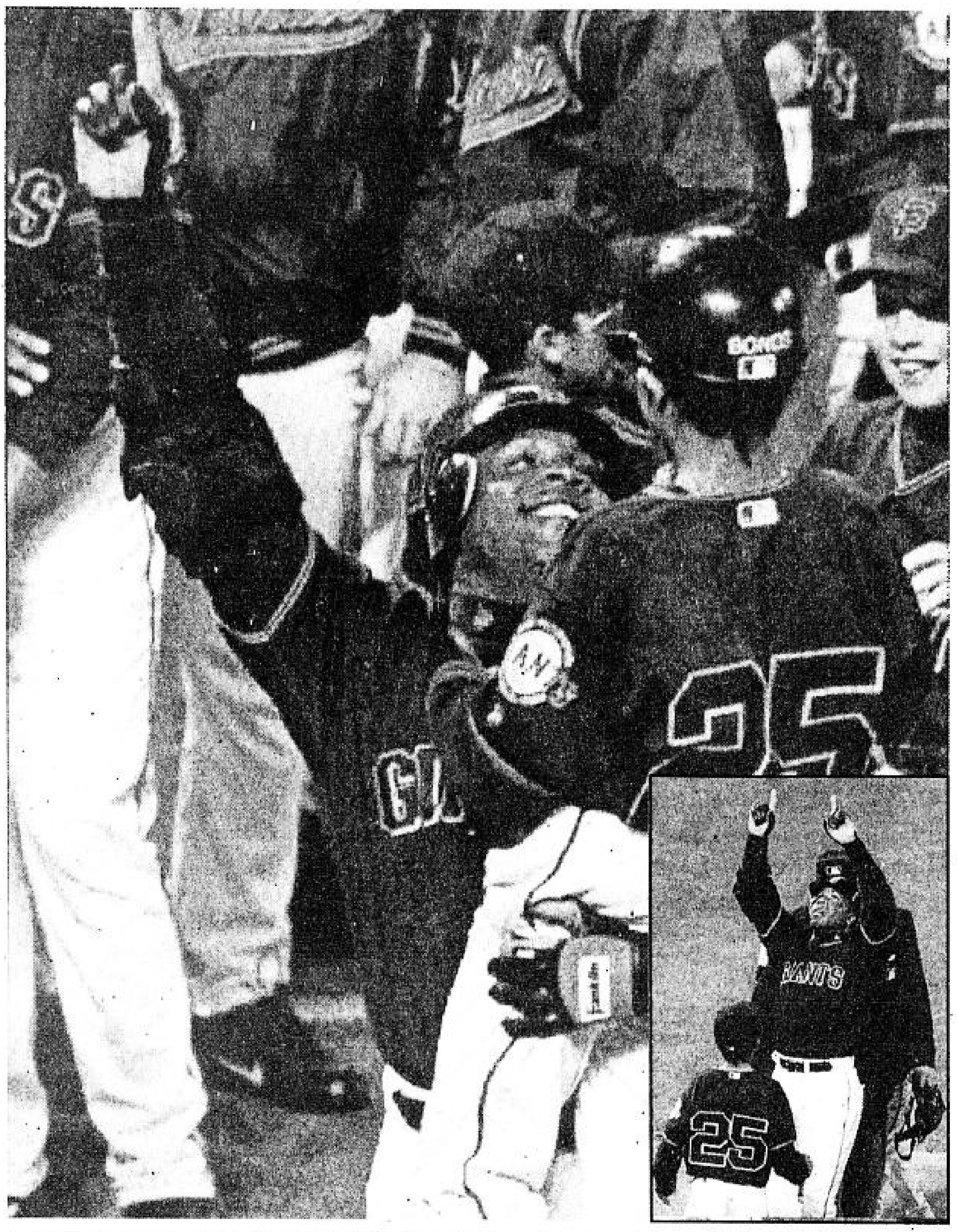
Two of the game's best college coaches - John Chaney of Temple and Mike Krzyzewski of Duke - joined Malone in the induction class. *AP*

PBL final

GAME TODAY
2 p.m.—Shark vs Welcoat

IT WILL be another Welcoat Paints-Shark Energy Drink showdown for the PBL Open Invitational crown.

The Paint Masters subdued Spring Cooking Oil, 82-74, yesterday to arrange what is expected to be another classic sudden-death rubber match for the PBL Open invitational plum at the Makati Coliseum.



BONDS celebrates his 71st homerun with 11-year-old son Nikolai and then points to the sky (inset) after notching No. 72.
AP

Bonds hits No. 72, rips Mac's mark

NEW YORK—By the time they finally finished at San Francisco's Pacific Bell Park, nearly all the National League races and chases were over.

Barry Bonds got his home run record, hitting No. 71 to pass Mark McGwire, and then adding No. 72 for emphasis.

The Atlanta Braves clinched the NL East with a 20-3 win over Florida. And when the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the San Francisco Giants 11-10 in the longest nine-inning game in major league history - 4 hours, 27 minutes - the other three playoff spots were locked up, too.

Arizona beat Milwaukee 5-0 and won the West. Houston and St. Louis, tied for the NL Central lead, were both assured of at least the wild card spot.

On the night Bonds made history, his Giants were eliminated from postseason contention.

"It's just unfortunate we came up short," he said. "It was a great year all the way around."

Brad Ausmus and four Astros teammates stayed in the clubhouse after a 2-1 win at St. Louis, watching the Dodgers-Giants game.

"It takes some pressure off, but we still have intentions of going after the division title," he said.

The Diamondbacks, pressured by the Giants throughout the stretch, could celebrate.

The Braves became the first pro sports team to win 10 division titles in a row. The Boston Celtics (1957-65) and Los Angeles Lakers (1982-90) took nine straight in the NBA.

"Most times, we don't celebrate like this," pitcher John Smoltz said in a champagne-filled clubhouse. "But after struggling and scratching and clawing all year, it meant a lot to win this division." *AP*

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct	GB
East				
x-New York	94	64	.595	
Boston	81	79	.506	14
Toronto	79	81	.494	16
Baltimore	63	97	.394	32
Tampa Bay	61	99	.381	34
Central				
x-Cleveland	90	70	.562	
Chicago	83	77	.519	7
Minnesota	83	77	.519	7
Detroit	65	94	.409	24 1/2
Kansas City	63	96	.396	26 1/2
West				
x-Seattle	115	45	.719	
y-Oakland	100	60	.625	15
Anaheim	75	85	.469	40
Texas	72	88	.450	43

x-clinched division
y-clinched wild card

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct	GB
East				
y-Atlanta	87	73	.544	
Philadelphia	83	76	.522	3 1/2
New York	81	79	.506	6
Florida	75	85	.469	12
Montreal	67	93	.419	20
Central				
x-Houston	92	68	.575	
x-St. Louis	92	68	.575	
Chicago	87	73	.544	5
Cincinnati	66	93	.415	25 1/2
Milwaukee	66	94	.412	26
Pittsburgh	61	99	.381	31
West				
y-Arizona	92	68	.575	
San Francisco	89	71	.556	3
Los Angeles	85	75	.531	7
San Diego	78	82	.488	14
Colorado	72	88	.450	20

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Boston 5, Baltimore 0, 1st game; Boston 7, Baltimore 5, 10 innings, 2nd game; Toronto 5, Cleveland 0, 1st game; Toronto 4, Cleveland 3, 11 innings, 2nd game; Kansas City at Detroit, ppd., rain; Tampa Bay 8, N.Y. Yankees 4; Chicago White Sox 7, Minnesota 4; Seattle 6, Texas 2; Oakland 6, Anaheim 2.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Pittsburgh 3, Chicago Cubs 2; Philadelphia at Cincinnati, ppd, rain; Montreal 8, N.Y. Mets 6; Atlanta 20, Florida 3; Arizona 5, Milwaukee 0; Houston 2, St. Louis 1; Colorado 4, San Diego 0; Los Angeles 11, San Francisco 10. *AP*

Braves bag 10th title

ATLANTA, Georgia— The Atlanta Braves' lucky number must be 10.

On the 10th anniversary of their first division title, the Braves scored 10 times in the first inning and cruised to an unprecedented 10th consecutive division title with a 20-3 rout of the Florida Marlins.

After falling behind 3-0 in the first half-inning it looked like Atlanta would have to hope for a loss by second-place Philadelphia to win another National League East pennant. *AFP*

Realtors eye 7th straight victory

GAMES TODAY *(Philsports Arena)*
4:05 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Shell
6:10 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Sta. Lucia

By June Navarro

SINCE Damien Owen's arrival in the import-spiced PBA Governors Cup, Sta. Lucia Realty remains unbeaten in six games.

Tonight, the Realtors hope to extend their winning record with Owens at the helm when they go up against the second-running Talk N Text Phone Pals at the Philsports Arena.

Game time is 6:10 p.m. after Shell and San Miguel Beer collide at 4:05 p.m.

"Definitely, big changes have occurred since Damien's arrival," said Sta. Lucia coach Norman Black. "He's an all-around player, brings a lot of energy, the locals really like him and they respond to him."

The 6-foot-3 Owens again proved his billing Friday night after lifting the Realtors to a 121-118 overtime win over Barangay Ginebra for their sixth straight victory.

His jumper with 16 ticks left in the extension period bailed the Realtors out of trouble.

San Miguel Beer, too, is struggling since Danny Seigle was injected into the injured list. Seigle remains a doubtful starter tonight.

The Beermen fared even worse than the Phone Pals as they absorbed three straight defeats after starting the conference with two victories.

But the Turbo Chargers won't take the Beermen's unusual slide for granted as they attempt to improve their 3-2 record. They snapped the Panthers four-game streak with a morale-boosting 90-83 win Friday night.

Alaska scores

IN-AN out-of-town game in Cebu City yesterday, Alaska nipped Tanduay, 96-92, in overtime to enter the win-column and tie its victim at the bottom of the standings at 1-4.

UP forces 3rd meeting

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines extended the 64th UAAP women's basketball finals yesterday to a winner-take-all third game by frustrating De La Salle University, 59-40, at the Ateneo gym.

In the series opener which the grand slam-seeking Lady Archers won, 56-63, the Lady Maroons were limited to just four points in the fourth quarter after a 49-39 lead at the end of the third canto.

LBC stakes lead vs Andok's

GAMES TODAY *(San Juan Gym)*
3:00 p.m.—Socsargen-Taguig vs Cebu
5:30 p.m.—Batangas vs San Juan

By Roy Luarca

A SHOOTOUT looms when LBC Batangas stakes its winning streak and the solo lead against Andok's San Juan at 5:30 p.m. today in the MBA Second Phase at the San Juan Gym.

Averaging 107.6 points per outing, the Andok's San Juan Knights are pacing the league in scoring, with the LBC Batangas Blades a far second with 101.8 points per game.

The Blades are unbeaten in five starts, but are certain to encounter stiff opposition from the Knights, who are on a four-game roll after dropping their first game.

Romel Adducul, last year's MVP, will again be at the forefront of the Blades' challenge along with fellow national player Eddie Laure and Alex Compton.

The Knights, on the other hand, will draw firepower from Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games standouts Chris Calaguio, Omanzie Rodriguez and Chito Victolero and high-flyer Bruce Dacia.

Dacia and Calaguio combined for 52 points to lead Andok's San Juan's repeat 129-109 demolition of Davao on Friday, putting the Knights right behind the Blades in the Northern Conference.

Tasked to orchestrate the plays for the Blades is Victolero, who issued 12 assists and had four steals against the Eagles.

LBC Batangas has a score to settle against Andok's San Juan as it was the Knights who bested them for a final slot in the First Phase. The Knights went on to clinch the crown.

RP OPEN
Ben S. Abalos (left), Wack Wack president, presents a certificate of appreciation to Pagcor chair/president Efraim C. Genuino for Casino Filipino's sponsorship of the 86th Philippine Open. The 87th edition will be held in February at Wack Wack, with Casino Filipino and San Miguel Corp. as chief backers anew.

Kids swim tilt a hit

THE CEELIN 2001 swimming meet festival held yesterday at the International School in Makati was a big hit.

More than 300 swimmers (12-and-under division) coming from different schools and swimming clubs in Metro Manila and southern and northern Luzon participated in the one day event sponsored by Pediatrica Inc.

Among the schools that saw action were La Salle-Greenhills, De La Salle-Zobel, St. Benedict in Alabang, Elizabeth Seton, St. Scholastica's, St. Jude, Lourdes School of Mandaluyong and host school International School.

All set for Mitra Cup racefest

THREE-YEAR-OLD champion Silver Story and undefeated two-year-old standout Golden Ballet lead the starry cast seeing action on Oct. 14 in the Mitra Cup Championships, highlight events of the 2nd Philtobo Futurity Championship Racing Festival, at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

The 2nd Philtobo Futurity racefest, organized by the Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders' Organization, kicks off local racing's championship season with a blockbuster card of six divisional championships and several special invitational races.

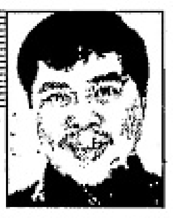
"Mitra cup 2' and the Philtobo Racefest is part of our commitment to provide an annual showcase of the best produce of the local horse breeding industry, as envisioned by Philtobo's founding chair, the late Speaker Monching Mitra," said Philtobo president Bienvenido "Nonoy" Niles Jr.

Inspired by last year's highly successful staging of the inaugural Mitra Cup, this year's celebration will comprise five racing days from Oct. 10-14.

Highlight of the week long extravaganza is the Oct. 14 Philtobo Mitra Cup Championship Day which will be headlined by six top money events.

Sta. Lucia day at the Park

ONE WINNER



Edwin Villanueva

GRAND Futurity races have always been a part of the Philippine Racing Club calendar.

This afternoon, another Futurity event unfolds at the Santa Ana Park where six top gallopers are competing over the seldom-used 1,800-meter distance.

Three-year-old chestnut Lyonnais, currently on a roll, is the early favorite to claim the P225,000 first prize put up by real estate giant Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc.

But Lyonnais, who will be ridden by former star apprentice L. I. Santos, should face a two-pronged threat in Bidang Bida and Serena.

Bidang Bida is using the race as his final tuneup for the Juvenile Colts Championship on Oct. 14, climax of the five-day Philtobo-Mitra Cup 2 festival to be held at San Lazaro.

Serena, on the other hand, is fresh from vacation and should go up as either the second or third choice in the betting.

Santos is also pitting skills against Jonathan "Unoh" Hernandez who is steering Bidang Bida and Fernando "Dhunoy" Raquel Jr. who is skippering Tony Boy Eleazar's Serena.

Also joining the race are Power Pack (J.B. Guce), Silver Rose (V.M. Camanero) and Red Bells (Pat Dilema).

***

Sta. Lucia Realty wants to make it sure that the first big racing festival under its aegis ends up as a memorable one for *kareristas*.

So aside from the Grand Futurity, it also put up a total of 20 invitational races with guaranteed gross prize of P150,000 each.

Fulton Su, PRCI's vice president for marketing and business development, said that racing fans will be in for a hectic betting schedule at Santa Ana because 12 of those invitationals will unfold today.

Aside from Fulton, other PRCI bigwigs like Mon Ereneta and Andy Maramag are expected to grace the affair along with Sta. Lucia Realty officials headed by its president Exequiel Robles.

By the way, Sta. Lucia Realty is also introducing today the Saddle & Clubs Leisure Park, the future site of Santa Ana.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. The Dominator 2. Prince Ron Ron

Race 2—1. Nevada Dancer 2. Snake Dancer 3. Marissa's Diane 4. D Pen Traveller 5. Shuttle's Magic

Race 3—1. Smart Kevin 2. Clear Sky 3. I Dare You 4. Fullness of Time

Race 4—1. Baccarat 2. What a Spell 3. River Bee

Race 5—1. Powerhouse 2. Spirited Lady 3. North Shine 4. Ladies' Night 5. Rose in Bloom 6. Bold Freddy

Race 6—1. Jerold's Dream 2. Golden Tale 3. Turbo Carera 4. Grand Dragon 5. Precious Time

Race 7—1. Sunny Sky 2. Perfect Gift 3. Super Dancer 4. Little Timothy 5. Bravada

Race 8—1. Rapid Strike 2. Kentucky News 3. Gallop for Gold 4. Gun Express 5. Suterlan Era 6. Silver Dollar

Race 9—1. Lyonnais 2. Serena 3. Bidang Bida 4. Power Pack

Race 10—1. The Fox 2. Golden Eagle 3. Noble Regent 4. Charlemagne 5. Blockbuster

Race 11—1. Diamond Star 2. Dynamite Jack 3. Front Page 4. Hearts on Fire

Race 12—1. Kingair 2. Real Dancer 3. Gold Honors 4. Ryuji 5. Dragon Heart

Race 13—1. The Topnotcher 2. Air Love 3. Wishing Well 4. Tanging Ikaw 5. Red Hahn 6. Happy Return

Race 14—1. Little Voices 2. Impeccable 3. Union City Boy 4. Walang Hanggan 5. Maximo

Race 15—1. Nyora Alding 2. Corporate Law 3. High Pitch 4. Triple Joy 5. Furthermore 6. Brenda Star

7-stag derby slated

HOTELIER-SPORTSMAN Biboy Enriquez will host the 5th Ucap/Firebird 7-Stag Derby at Mandaluyong Coliseum this coming Tuesday and Thursday, Oct. 9 and 11.

Sponsors of the event are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

More than 40 top caliber entries are seeing action in the two-day event, said Enriquez.

Submission of weights is on Monday, Oct. 8, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Meanwhile, Tito Aquino's Cainta Town Fiesta entry emerged as solo champion in last Thursday's 4th Ucap/Arnis Master 7-Stag Derby after posting six wins and one loss.

Runner-up honors went to Esting Teopaco (EGT Stingers), Danding Cojuangco (Bumble Bee Balbina), *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio (Hammer Sagupaan), Jessie Viceo (San Rafael Anniv.) and Vic Yu (Sir Vincent) who scored five points each.

Two more Ucap-supported stagfests will be held on Oct. 16 and 18 (Ram Lopez and Vic Yu) and Oct. 23 and 25 (Bacolod Group).

'Sagupaan' meet Oct. 18

UPCOMING cockers and breeders gird up for the Sagupaan 4-Stag Smalltime Derby on Oct. 18 at the Pampanga Coliseum in San Fernando City.

Hosting the meet is *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio.

The guaranteed prize is P200,000 plus a Sagupaan trio for the champion. Entry fee is P5,500. Screening will be held on the day of the derby, from 6 a.m. to 12 noon.

Antonio, who is also the host of Sagupaan TV show on IBC-13 every Saturday (12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m.), said the upcoming breeders from Pampanga, Tarlac, Bataan, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Zambales and Pangasinan are taking part in the event.

The event comes on the heels of the highly successful Sagupaan Bigtime Invitational Derby last Sept. 29, witnessed by a jampacked crowd. Bobby Cabillon of Laguna (RSC Pasay Cockpit entry) emerged as solo champion from a field of 29 entries.

Taytay ties Antipolo

RODRIGUEZ, Rizal—Defending champion Taytay National High banked on Boyle Tolentino's goal in the 63rd minute to tie Antipolo National High, 2-2, Friday at the start of the Rizal provincial Go-for-Goal under-16 football eliminations at the San Jose Elementary School field here.

Sunday **SPORTS**

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED B. LORENZO MANGUIAT

POOL: World Pool Masters 2001 at 12:30 p.m. (r – 4 p.m.) on ESPN

MOTOR SPORTS: SBK Superbike Highlights at 7 a.m. on Star Sports and 8 p.m. on ESPN

FIM World Motorcycle Championship at 11:30 a.m. on Star Sports

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Delasin slips to 2nd, trails Webb by 2

UNITY IN SPORTS

FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo, International Olympic Committee representative Frank Elizalde, Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit, Philippine Sports Commission chair Carlos "Butch" Tuason, PSC commissioners Cynthia Carrion and Amparo Lim, heads of national sports associations and athletes who saw action in the last Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur flash the number 1 sign in a show of unity during the testimonial dinner tendered for the local sports community Monday night at the Philsports Arena. In the same occasion, the PSC officials and Arroyo awarded the cash incentives to the medal winners in the SEA Games.

AS Karrie Webb took charge with five birdies in the front nine, Dorothy Joy Delasin broke par for the second straight day to stay within two strokes of the Australian star after the second round of the Samsung World Championship in Vallejo, California.

Delasin sent her second shot into the water on the second hole for an early bogey but kept control of her game to submit a one-under 71 and a 36-hole aggregate of 141 over the Arnold Palmer-designed Hiddenbrooke Golf Club.

Webb had a birdie-spiked round of 67 and could have pulled away if not for a triple-bogey 7 on the 14th hole. With her 72 in the opening round, Webb stepped ahead at 139.

Delasin, last year's rookie of the year who defended her Giant Eagle Classic crown to make it to the elite 20-player cast here, finally gets her dream round with Webb on Saturday as they are paired in the final twosome.

Korean Se Ri Pak, who was tied for the lead with Delasin in the first round, checked in with a 72 and fell into a tie for third with Rachel Teske whose 65 is the tournament's best so far. Annika Sorenstam (72-145) was six shots back in a tie for seventh. *Jong Arcano*

Orchard hosts Sta. Lucia golf

THE 200 campaigners of the popular Sta. Lucia Tour return to action this week when the Orchard Golf and Country Club hosts the first of two Luzon legs on Oct. 11-13 at its Palmer and Player courses in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Less than a month after launching their bids in rousing fashion in the Visayas stop hosted by Alta Vista Golf and Country Club in Cebu, the powerhouse Orchard delegation is expected to make their big moves at their home club.

At the head of the vaunted Orchard charge is the D team made up of low-handicapper Dan Salvador III, Mariano Castaneda, Aaron Topacio and Rudel Panganiban who pulled off a squeaker in Group I.

Club chair Conrad Benitez and president Dr. Carlo Magno will be on hand to give their contingent the needed morale-booster as the series staged by real estate giant Sta. Lucia Realty for clubs carrying its banner enters its halfway mark. The oversized Eagle Ridge contingent is also eyeing a big comeback as well as the other four clubs in the field, Alta Vista, Royale Tagaytay and the Rancho Palos Verdes of Davao.

Co-sponsors of the event are Golforce, Inc., Gainers Marketing, Atlanta Industries, Kubota Agro-Ind. Machinery Phils., Unirock, Readycon, Club Car, Omega, Yamaha/Kart Plaza, Philippine Airlines, Kodak Digital Camera, Semicon, Isuzu Fuego-Cebu and Neltex and Anako for this year's tour. Official hotels are Hyatt for Manila, Cebu Plaza for Cebu and Marco Polo for Davao.

Golf Power on

GOLF Power today presents Tito Boy's Trophy, the annual tournament in honor of Philippine Junior Golf Federation president Edgardo "Tito Boy" Cantada. Forty-four federation members played at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club's East Course. The event was sponsored by Milo, the Olympic energy drink, Outback Steakhouse and Pacsports. Also featured on the show are the regular dose of golf tips, trivia, definition of golf terms and rules.

Castrol riders strike again

CASTROL-DUCATI Manila riders strengthened their campaign in both the expert open and novice categories with another creditable performances in the National Super Bike Series 2001 at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas recently.

Former "Rider of the Year" awardee Toti Alberto steered his brand-new Ducati 748R to second place twice in another action-packed battle and firmed up his position in the centerpiece expert open category.

Alberto, who rose to prominence with a smashing, come-from-behind victory over arch-rival Jolet Jao in 1999, has a 10-round total 113 points based on the 25-20-16-13-11 scoring system used by the organizing Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) and National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa).

"We're satisfied with the team's performance in both the expert open and novice categories," said Alberto, who noted the all-out support of team sponsors like Castrol and Ducati.

Hopkins best fighter

LOS ANGELES—Bernard Hopkins, who stopped Felix Trinidad in the 12th round last weekend to become the undisputed middleweight champion, has been selected Fighter of the Year by the World Boxing Hall of Fame. Hopkins will receive his award at a banquet on Oct. 20, when nine inductees are enshrined into the World Boxing Hall of Fame. Boule Fischer, Hopkins' trainer, has been picked as the trainer of the year. *AP*

BLAST FROM THE PAST

DAVIS Love III shot a 4-under 68 to post a four-stroke victory over Stewart Cink in the $1.2-million Buick Challenge in Georgia. Love finished with a 21-under 267.

Int'l Golf Show ends today

WITH attendance expected to surpass the big figure on the first two days, exhibitors make their final pitch today as the sixth Philippine International Golf Show comes to a close at the SM Megamall Megatrade Hall.

It will be a day of raffles, celebrity appearances and super bargains as most of the 60 participating companies wrap their participation in the three-day, Tradex-managed Golf Show.

Mizuno and Guam Visitors Bureau are giving away a golfing holiday in Guam, while equipment distributors Callaway, Pacsports, Maxfli, Titleist, Footjoy and Wilson are putting top-of-the-line brands on special sale. The Golf Authority is awarding a lucky visitor a dream round with Gerald Rosales and Cassius Casas at Sherwood Hills.

Show sponsors Hawaiian Tropic, Planet Sports, Srixon, Casino Filipino, Berocca, Budweiser, Milo Enervon Prime, Lipton Ice Tea, Racks, Taytan International, Earthinshape.com. and Pharmaton with Citylite 88.3 as official radio station are also doing on the spot promotions.

Former president Fidel Ramos, MMDA Chair Ben Abalos and SEA Games gold medalist Juvic Pagunsan were special guests of the show opening last Friday.

In his speech, FVR who showed up in playing outfit as he drove straight to the course after the opening rites exhorted the members of the Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines (GDAP) to continue their mission of helping the local economy.

GDAP president Raymund Atendido, meanwhile, said that modest as the preparations were, he feels that the strong support of the whole industry gave them the strength to pull it off.

"The Golf Show has become a commitment and for us to be getting the same lineup of supporters all these years gives us all the reason to work harder to make it bigger and grander," said Atendido.

PSC requests ₱248M from Congress

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission has requested Congress for a P248 million budget for next year with a big part of it intended for repairs of the dilapidated venues and athletes' dorms inside Rizal Memorial Sports Complex and other PSC-run facilities.

Commissioners William Ramirez and Richie Garcia last Friday submitted the 2002 budget that will set aside P80 million for renovations of quarters at the RMSC, Ultra and Baguio City, which have been on top of the athletes' constant complaint.

PSC engineers estimated the repair cost at P500 million with the RMSC swimming pool eating a big slice of it. The pool, according to Ramirez, was even ordered closed because it was in serious state of disrepair and there are several reports of swimmers suffering cuts from its broken tiles.

"Some facilities actually would cost more to repair than to build a new one," said Ramirez. "But we actually tried to cut the amount to the minimum because we know that we can't ask that much from Congress."

He also stressed that the repairs of the facilities are important for the country's campaign in the Pusan Asian Games next year as well as in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games in 2003.

"I explained to them the need for all these repairs and they gave me a positive response," Ramirez told the INQUIRER. "They promised to do something about the mechanics of funding."

He said the House Committee on Youth and Sports vowed to invoke the Oreta law that channels the management—and therefore the budget allocation—of school sports from the Department of Education Culture and Sports to the PSC.

Easily, the PSC would have an additional P130 million in budget, according to Ramirez, that would help the agency defray the expenses of the athletes' training and international exposures. Last year, the agency asked for P149 million but Congress, through the General Appropriations Act, only granted P103 million.

The return

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE QUESTION is not what Michael Jordan can still do. He can still do some things but not all of the things that he used to do.

Like flying with ease, under cruise control, even under the most turbulent of conditions.

Like making dunks in the most unorthodox of styles.

Like sipping wine in mid-air while gliding for a twinner.

Some of his magic may not be there anymore. To be harsh, many of his magic may not be there anymore.

Almost all of the wondrous things he had done are now frozen in the mists of time; no one among the present crop of wannabes is close to cloning Jordan. There may never be another Jordan in our time.

By why the return?

An itch needing to be scratched?

Bird feed.

Love for the game?

Crap.

The question is: What kind of incentive was dangled to pluck Jordan out of retirement?

Must be something he couldn't refuse?

Whatever, I guess that's immaterial. Jordan's beyond money considerations. He can probably live five lifetimes and his wealth will hardly suffer a dent.

When he retired the first time, Jordan said he needed to be with his family. "I missed not seeing my child grow," he said.

In 1995, he came back from retirement and gave the Chicago Bulls three more titles in 1996, 1997 and 1998. He retired again in 1998, right after Chicago beat Utah for the Bulls' sixth NBA crown in the '90s.

"I'm through," he said after announcing his second retirement in 1998. "I'm tired. My bones are aching. My muscles are sore."

He took to golf. Lowered his handicap to 9.

In 1995, no one raised an eyebrow when he returned because he was only 32 then. Because of him, Chicago duplicated the "three-peat" it scored in 1991, 1992 and 1993—under Jordan, of course.

Even before he could finally have his first practice game with the Washington Wizards some days ago, many had frowned upon Jordan's decision to return for the second time.

Can't blame the doubters. At 38, Jordan's old for basketball. He'll be 39 on Feb. 17, 2002. By then, it can be said that he must have played lots of NBA games already—that is, if his coach, Doug Collins, will not decide to use him sparingly. Jordan is expected to play his first game as a Wizard on Oct. 28 (Oct. 29 in Manila).

How many of those games can be considered genuine Jordan games remains to be seen.

Meanwhile, despite the doubts that bug the mind, we can't wait to see him play again.

We fear for his safety, we doubt about his ability to dish it out once more. Still, we want to see him play the game we all love. We want to see if the best man to ever play the game can still play it—with decency.

No, we don't entertain the money aspect linked to his return. No, we avoid pinning down Jordan with dirty insinuations as to say the color of money has blinded the game's most dominating cager ever.

Jordan will always be our baby, our fair-haired boy, who, like all heroes, can never do anything wrong. We will treat him always with kid gloves—even in the face of misadventures.

We always place our courageous athletes in a pedestal—even in their hour of foolishness.

Did we ever berate Muhammad Ali, or even Roberto Duran, when they continued to fight past their prime?

Whoever said Robert Jaworski was too old for basketball even when he was still dishing it out at age 45?

Was Elma Muros, 34, ever castigated when she elected to compete in the heptathlon in the recent SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur—even though she hadn't thrown a javelin for months?

Jordan said he was returning for the love of the game. He said returning was an itch that needed to be scratched.

A lot of bull?

Every man has this Mt. Everest in his mind. Even those who have nothing to scale anymore continue to build imaginary peaks.

Seemingly, Jordan's no exception.

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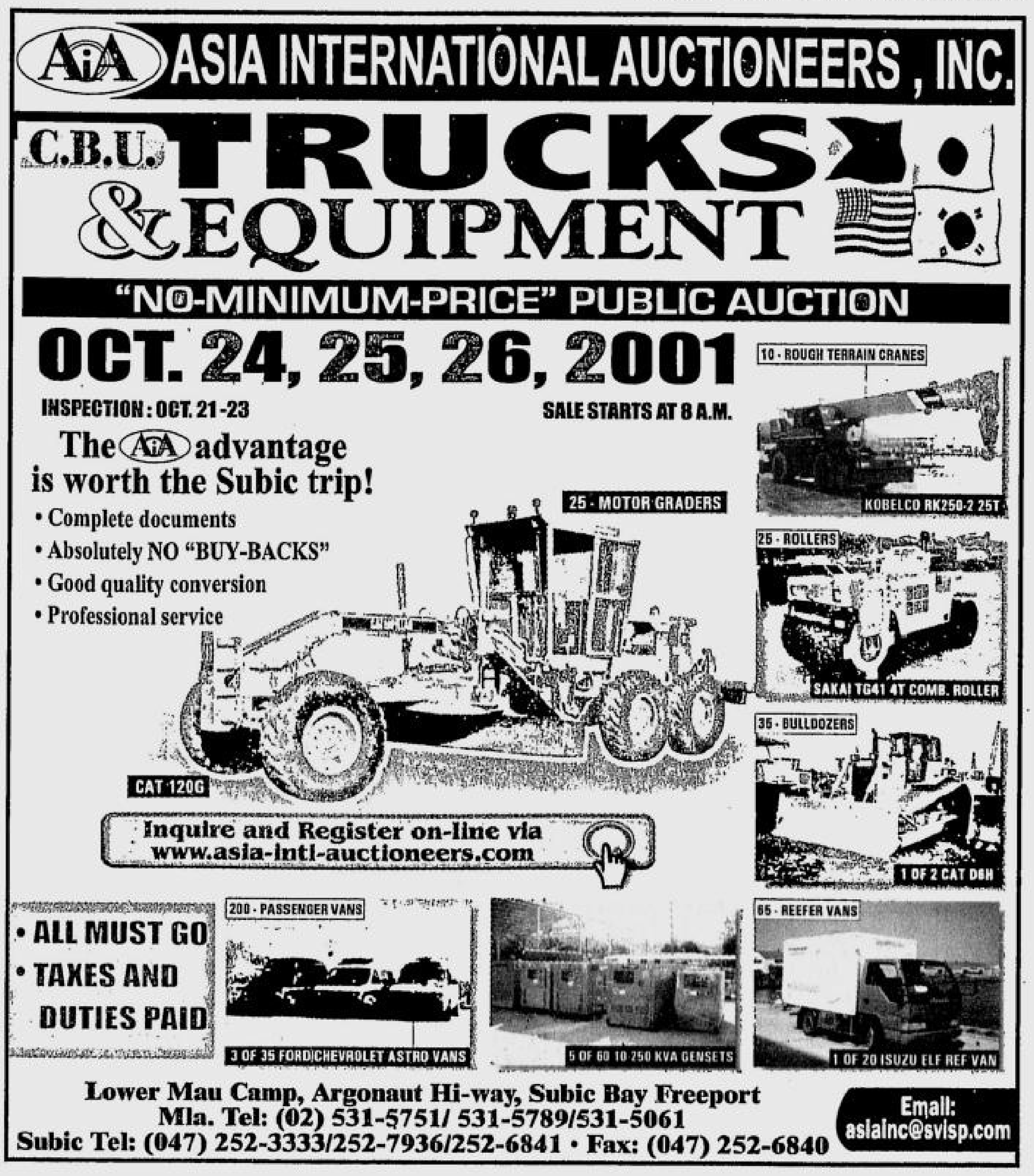

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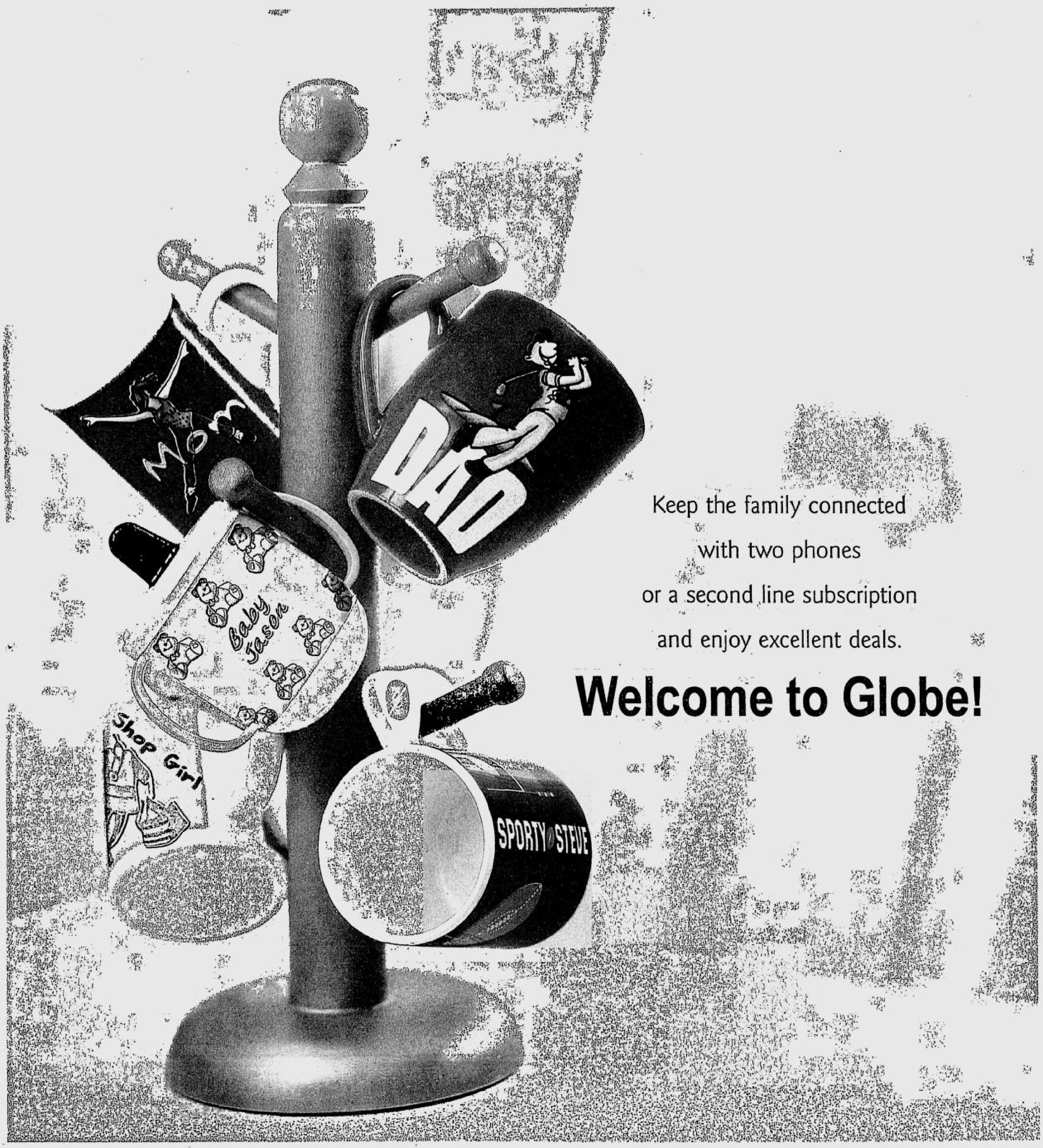

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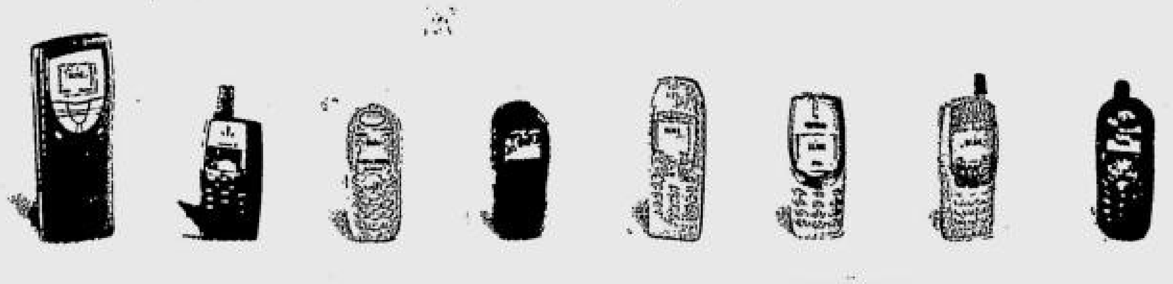

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Executive P1,997	36,000	13,000	11,000	11,000	9,500	6,000	3,100	1,500
CEO P2,662	35,000	12,000	10,000	10,000	8,500	5,000	2,100	500
Regular Line 2 Personal P799	37,000	14,000	12,000	12,000	10,500	7,000	4,100	2,500
Business P1,331	34,500	11,500	9,500	9,500	8,000	4,500	1,600	FREE
Executive P1,997	32,000	9,000	7,000	7,000	5,500	2,000	FREE	FREE
CEO P2,662	29,500	6,500	4,500	4,500	3,000	FREE	FREE	FREE
Prepaid Line 2 Cost of Prepaid Phone Kit if 1st line is **Personal**	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9,290	6,190	4,590
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METRO
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Sarabia gang still behind kidnappings, says suspect A24
Saving lives by dialing a number A25
Drug test for cops A25

Manila to revive Quiapo, Sta. Cruz

BY JEROME ANING

THE MANILA city government has unveiled an ambitious multimillion-peso rehabilitation plan to revive the Quiapo and Sta. Cruz districts.

The rehabilitation plan is part of Mayor Lito Atienza's "Buhayin ang Maynila" program.

The scheme, if accepted this month by the owners and businessmen, is projected to be finished within 42 months, or about April 2004, a month before the next local elections, where the mayor is expected to run for a third and final term.

The plan would "serve to push back urban decay that has plagued the area caused by years of neglect and apathy," the mayor told businessmen and property owners, potential investors and members of the media during a conference at the Century Park Sheraton Hotel last Thursday.

The project initially calls for the "total facelift" of the Sta. Cruz-Quiapo area, including the renovation of at least 37 buildings along CM Recto Avenue, Rizal Avenue, Carriedo Street, Quezon Boulevard and Soler and Evangelista streets.

"We hope to transform the area into a mode of urban renewal and restore it to its preeminent position as Downtown Manila, the center of business and commerce in the country for many years," Atienza said.

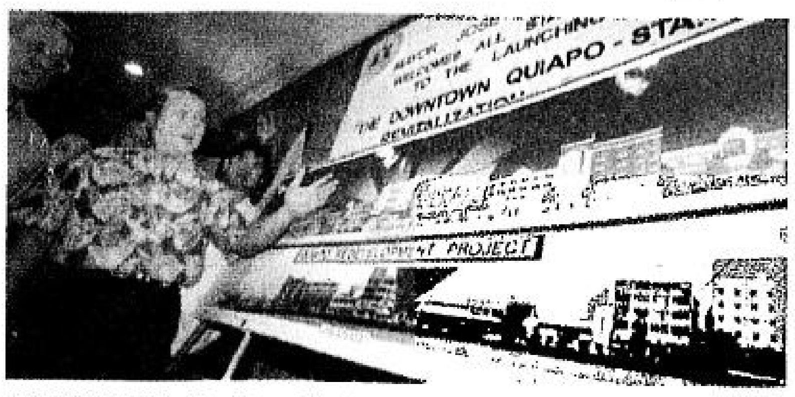
Most of the buildings would be connected by elevated and air-conditioned bridgeways lined with shopping and food stalls. The bridgeways will connect stations of the Light Rail Transit and the future LRT Line II along CM Recto.

In some areas, air-conditioned, ground-level walkways along the frontage of some buildings would replace sidewalks, which would also be lined with shopping and food stalls.

Wide pedestrian overpasses traversing roads would be built, also to be made air-conditioned, to serve as "shopping walkways."

The walkways and bridgeways are expected to solve the traffic congestion and the proliferation of sidewalk vending, Atienza said.

He said no movement or transfer of business outfits is anticipated on the ground level, but this should be expected on the second floor levels.



DOWNTOWN Manila will live again if the multimillion-peso redevelopment plan works, according to Mayor Atienza. ERIK ARAZAS

CUDDLING their best friends are Oscar Lei, wife Lana and their children Kimberlyn and Kenichi. JOHNNY VILLENA

Insurance man turns full-time animal lover

BY MARLET D. SALAZAR

TALES OF THE CITY

HE was supposed to lure clients to buy insurance, but Oscar Lei soon found himself lured into full-time volunteer work.

"It just happened," Lei said. "Before I knew it, I was out of Sun Life and all tied up with so many things to do in PAWS."

PAWS is the Philippine Animal Welfare Society, of which Lei is director.

In 1997, Lei was an agent for Sun Life Insurance. Their bosses often reminded the agents to be always in touch with people and to join civic clubs where they could meet prospective insurance buyers.

And so Lei, who says he has been an animal lover since he was a kid, joined PAWS in September 1997, having been invited by the family pets' veterinarian, Dr. Sonny Bautista of Aso, Pusa, Atbp. clinic located on P. Guevarra Street in San Juan.

"Dr. Bautista said I might be able to pick up some prospective clients," Lei recalled.

By the first quarter of 1998, he was already out of Sun Life.

Though he didn't plan to really go full-time in volunteer work, he gradually found out that many things needed to be done in the animal welfare organization. Members, for instance, needed IDs so Lei started to design the PAWS identification cards. Later on, he asked a brother-in-law, who was in the T-shirt business, for some extra shirts with animal prints. He thought of selling the shirts to generate funds for PAWS.

INSURANCE MAN/ A25

Guard shot dead as 15 men rob SM North shops

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

ROBBERS killed a security guard and took millions in cash and jewelry in a daring broad daylight heist inside the SM North Edsa annex building in Quezon City yesterday.

About 15 armed men robbed the SM foreign exchange counter and three jewelry stores inside the mall in just less than five minutes, according to Chief Insp. Rudy Jaraza, Central Police District- Criminal Investigation Unit chief.

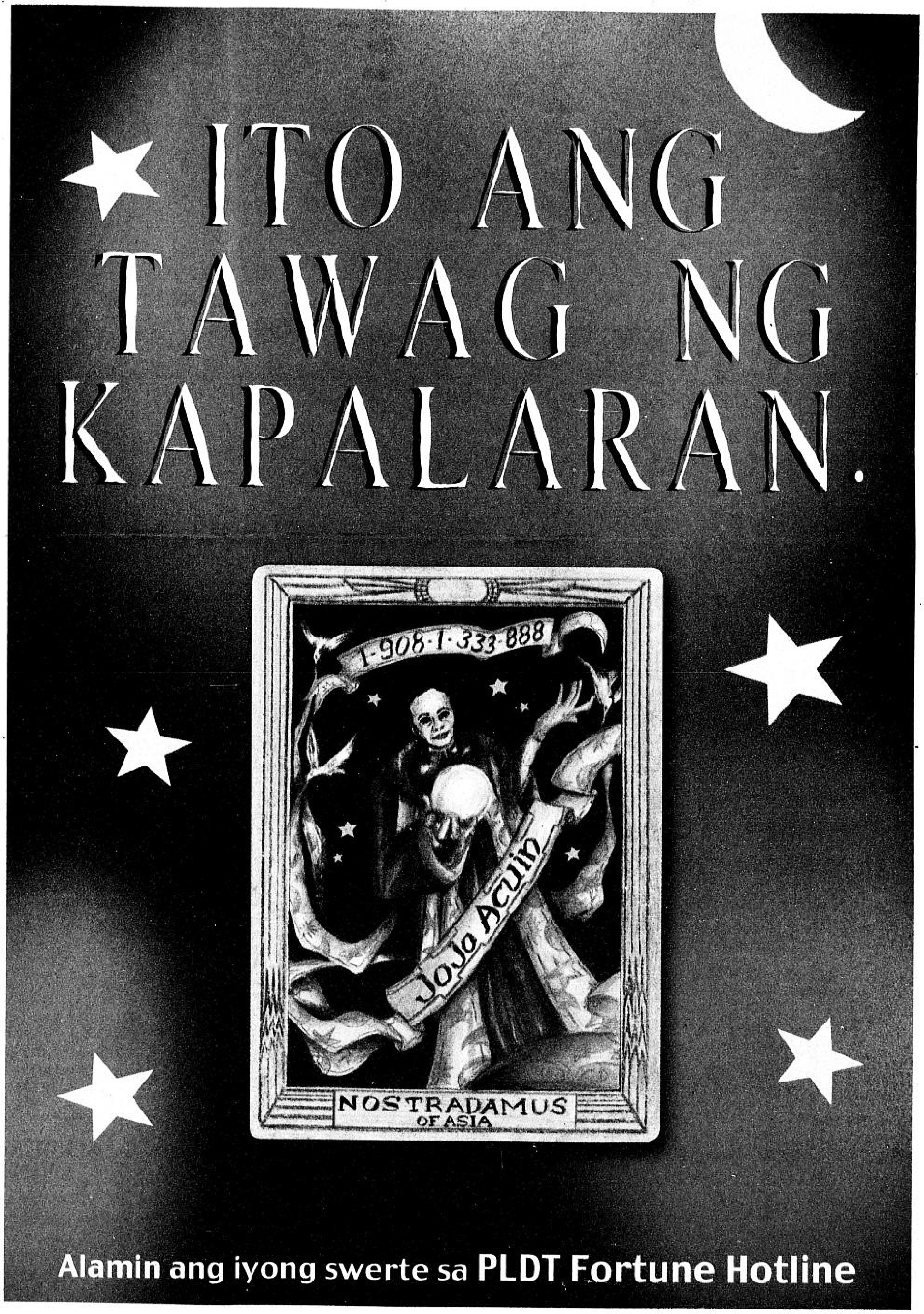
Security guard Antonio Remato, 51, of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, died from a single gunshot wound in the back, shot by one of the suspects as they escaped. The DECS National Capital Region office is just beside SM North Edsa.

PO2 Randy Escobido said the robbers hit the forex counter, the Brilliant Gem and JP jewelry stores before escaping on board a maroon Toyota Revo (WAY-985), a black Honda Civic (WPC-235), and two motorcycles.

Initial police reports said the Gem Gallery store on the second floor was also robbed but Escobido said this was not true.

Escobido said the owners of the robbed stores were still trying to determine how much the robbers took but it could run up to millions.

GUARD SHOT/ A24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Navotas is cleanest

NAVOTAS has been adjudged this year's cleanest and greenest town in Metro Manila by the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Mayor Toby Tiangco was informed of the award by Serafin Benaldo, DILG regional director and chair of the Gawad Pangulo sa Kapaligaran NCR awards committee.

The DILG credited the people of Navotas for their concern "about the quality of their environment."

The DILG also cited the impact of the government's clean and green program "achieved through the exemplary performance" of Tiangco.

"The residents deserve all the credit," the mayor said in a statement. "No clean and green project would succeed if the people are not behind it."

He said the municipal government merely tapped the people's enthusiasm to get them involved in community-enhancing projects.

One such project was the deployment of volunteer street sweepers under Oplan Kalinisan last year.

"The project has two objectives," he said, "to promote cleanliness and to provide residents with part-time jobs in their own neighborhoods."

Volunteer street sweepers work only three hours a day and are paid P50 daily as incentive. They collect garbage in bags and bring the bags to designated pick-up points.

The ideas is simple yet effective, Tiangco said. "With this kind of community spirit, Navotas deserves the cleanest and greenest award," he said.

The Gawad Pangulo sa Kapaligiran awards is a project of the DILG with the support of other government agencies.

Navotas has the highest population density in Metro Manila, with 220,000 people living in a 10.77 km strip of land, almost half of which is made up of fishponds.

A total of 31 shipyards and 75 ice plants support the town's fishing industry.

'Sarabia Gang' still behind abductions, says suspect

BY ALCUIN PAPA

A NOTORIOUS kidnap syndicate is said to be responsible for the recent spate of abductions in Metro Manila even though most of its members are now behind bars.

Federex Valencia, the prime suspect in the Connie Wong kidnap case who surrendered to police on Oct. 4, revealed that members of the Sarabia kidnap-for-ransom group are responsible for the rash of kidnappings recently.

A high-ranking police official who is involved in the Connie Wong investigation confirmed Valencia's statement.

Valencia, a native of Buyan, Sta. Teresita, Cagayan Valley and now a resident of Amparo Village, Novaliches, turned himself over to police when he learned through media reports that he is being implicated in the kidnapping of Connie Wong.

Wong and her bodyguard-driver, policeman Dionisio Burca Jr., died in the hands of their abductors on Oct. 1.

When questioned, Valencia denied his involvement in the Wong abduction.

But he revealed that the dreaded Sarabia group is still involved in kidnapping activities despite the fact that most of its members have been convicted in 1999 and are now in jail.

Valencia, a 32-year-old driver, told investigators that the wife of Rey Sarabia, leader of the group, may have formed a new kidnap syndicate and receives instructions from her jailed husband, or that the old members themselves are still carrying out abductions by slipping out of detention.

"We believe that information and we are investigating if a new group has been formed or whether the old members are actually operating themselves," said the official who requested anonymity.

At present, police regard Valencia as a suspect. When he surrendered, Valencia was accompanied by his live-in partner Gilda Velasco, his legal counsel Narzal Mallares and the INQUIRER's Dave Veridiano.

"I gave myself up to clear my name after I heard I was being hunted for the abductions," Valencia told the police.

Investigators also suspect Valencia could have formed his own group made up of the surviving members of the Red Scorpion Gang. The RSG disbanded after its leader Alfredo "Joey" de Leon was killed in a shootout six years ago.

In 1999, members of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force arrested Valencia along with Rey Sarabia, another former RSG member. Sarabia was convicted of kidnapping, while Valencia escaped conviction.

Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., head of the National Anti-Crime Commission's task force on kidnapping, said police are still gathering evidence on whether or not Valencia was indeed involved in the Wong case.

Ebdane said Valencia has cooperated with investigators "and has given us some information."

"We will work on it and if he is clean, we will help him (as a witness)," Ebdane said.

Already, private sector representatives in the National Anti-Crime Commission have urged government agencies involved in the anti-kidnapping campaign to "launch preemptive strikes" against kidnap groups.

In a meeting, Benjamin Chua, Dante Go and Teresita Ang See noted an upsurge of kidnapping cases and lamented the fact that the police are not coordinating their efforts with the private sector and refused to share vital information.

"We do not need the police to answer us with yet another statistic," Ang See said in a statement yesterday. "We need them to do their jobs and not to get sidetracked from running after other criminals."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, October 7, 2001
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4

Yahweh, how long will I cry for help while you pay no attention to me? I denounce the oppression and you do not save.

Why do you make me see injustice?

Are you pleased to look on tyranny? All I see is outrage, violence and quarrels.

Then Yahweh answered me and said,

"Write down the vision, inscribe it on tables so it can be easily read, since this is a vision for an appointed time; it will not fail but will be fulfilled in due time. If it delays, wait for it, for it will come and will not be deferred. Look:

I don't look with favor on the one who gives way; the upright, on the other hand, will live by his faithfulness."

2nd Reading: 2 Tim 1:6-8, 13-14

I invite you to fan into a flame the gift of God you received through the laying on of my hands. For God did not confer on us a spirit of bashfulness, but of strength, love and good judgment. Do not be ashamed of testifying to our Lord, nor of seeing me in chains. On the contrary, do your share in laboring for the Gospel with the strength of God.

Follow the pattern of the sound doctrine which you have heard from me, concerning faith and love in Christ Jesus. Keep this precious deposit with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives within us.

Gospel: Lk 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." And the Lord said, "If you have faith even the size of a mustard seed, you may say to this tree: 'Be uprooted and plant yourself in the sea,' and it will obey you.

Who among you would say to your servant coming in from the fields after plowing or tending sheep: 'Come at once and sit down at table?' No, you tell him: 'Prepare my dinner. Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink; you can eat and drink afterwards.' Do you thank this servant for doing what you commanded? So for you. When you have done all that you have been told to do, you must say: 'We are no more than servants; we have only done our duty.'"

Commentary:

Right after the teaching about forgiveness, the apostles cry out to Jesus, "Increase our faith." Why is this sudden shift? For Luke, there is a connection between the gift of faith and the ability to forgive. True enough, it is hard to forgive if we do not have faith. Lack of faith has a paralyzing effect. On the other hand, strong faith leads us to do the impossible—to forgive the unforgivable. In the gospel passage, Luke also suggests an attitude proceeding from an active faith. In the work of faith, no one of us deserves thanks. Faith does not seek thanks; it is always thankful. If we fulfill our obligation by the gift of faith, we can make no claim for credit.

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Kidnap survivor arms herself

BY ALCUIN PAPA

IN FEAR for her life, kidnapping survivor Jacqui Rowena Tiu bought three handguns on Friday to protect herself.

Tiu, 28, accompanied by her father Rudy, went to the Philippine National Police Firearms and Explosives Division in Camp Crame and bought two 9 mm. Browning automatic pistols and a .22 revolver on the same day her suspected abductors were presented to media.

While they refused to make a statement to media, the Tius hinted that the guns were meant for their protection against kidnappers.

The Tius submitted the required documents for the licenses of their firearms and permits to carry firearms outside residences (PTCFOR). They reportedly paid for the firearms and the permits in cash.

Senior Supt. Ernesto Belen, FED head, facilitated the processing of the Tius' papers, apparently recognizing the threat to their lives.

Tiu was abducted on Sept. 27 in front of their residence in Barangay Lingsat, San Fernando, La Union. She was released on Oct. 4 after her family paid P10 million in ransom.

Police conducted operations in Bacoor, Cavite, Pasay City and Tarlac City and arrested seven suspects, most of whom were from Fookien, China.

Police also managed to recover the entire ransom.

Police are now investigating the involvement of Chinese foreigners in the kidnapping of wealthy Chinese–Filipinos.

'Victims' rode in car with no license plates

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

WAS it another kidnapping?

Witnesses apparently think so when they reported to police that seven men abducted three Chinese-looking men on Friday night near the border of Valenzuela and Quezon City.

But investigators are asking why no one from the Chinese-Filipino community has stepped up to report the incident to the police. They are also puzzled why the car of the victims did not have license plates.

"That is a mystery—why the victims' car did not have license plates," said Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, Northern Police District director.

"We have contacted the Filipino-Chinese community and other law enforcement agencies, but they have not received any report of a new kidnapping," he added.

Querol said it is usually the suspects' car, and not the victims', that does not have license plates.

Querol was referring to the victims' white Toyota Revo, which the suspects commandeered while the victims were inside.

He said the alleged kidnapping happened about 11 p.m. Friday in Barangay Ugong, Valenzuela City.

"Based on our initial investigation, the suspects on board two black Nissan Sentras, had been tailing the victims in Quezon City," Querol said. "They caught up with the Revo in Valenzuela."

The suspects' cars blocked the Revo on Grande Street in Barangay Ugong. Some of the suspects, armed with long arms and handguns, got down their cars, boarded the victims' Revo and sped away.

The suspects were already gone when Valenzuela policemen arrived on the scene.

"(The suspects) told the bystanders to drop to the ground, but some of the witnesses saw there were three men in the Revo," Querol said.

The victims were aged 23 to 25, witnesses told investigators.

Querol said the witnesses noticed that the suspects' two vehicles as well as the victims' Revo had no license plates.

"We are wondering why the victims were driving a car without license plates," he said.

Querol said his men are now searching for witnesses who might remember the Revo's conduction sticker.

But at press time yesterday, the Revo remained missing and no new witness has come forward, Querol said.

On Monday, Connie Yap Wong, sister-in-law of Uratex owner Robert Cheng, and her police bodyguard PO1 Dionisio Burca Jr., were abducted in Quezon City and were later killed. Their bodies were dumped in Valenzuela.

Querol said he has ordered all his station commanders in Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, and Valenzuela to increase police visibility in their respective areas.

"I also urge those who have received threats, or even those who suspect that somebody might abduct them, to coordinate with law enforcers so that we could finally put an end to this problem," Querol said.

Also, Senate Minority Floor Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has urged the Macapagal-Arroyo administration to launch another revamp of the Philippine National Police.

"We need to revamp the police," Pimentel said yesterday. "(Military intelligence chief) Col. (Victor) Corpus himself made that suggestion."

Pimentel said the recent spate of kidnappings has exacerbated the already negative image of the country in the eyes of the world community.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Evaluation by trial court of credibility of witnesses—Time and again, this Court has rules that the evaluation of the credibility of witnesses is a matter that particularly falls within the authority of the trial court, as it had the opportunity to observe the demeanor of the witnesses on the stand. For this reason, appellate courts accord its factual findings and assessments of witnesses with great weight and even finality, barring arbitrariness or oversight of some fact or circumstance of weight and substance. In this case, the trial court, which had the opportunity to hear and examine the testimony of the lone prosecution eyewitness, was convinced of his credibility. Indeed, appellant has given us no sufficient reason to overturn the factual findings of the trial court. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, People v. Cabareño, G.R. No. 138645, January 18, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Guard . . .

(From page A23)

A mall security guard identified one of the suspects through police photo records as a Jaime Gonzales, said to be a leader of the Bonnet/Waray gang.

Escobido said the robbers struck immediately after the mall opened around 10 a.m. yesterday. Once inside the mall, they quickly disarmed the guards, Escobido said.

Five of the suspects pulled out baby Armalite rifles while others put on bonnets. Two men acted as lookouts.

Escobido said one of the robbers went to the JP Jewelry Store while seven others robbed the SM forex counter, which is also on the first floor.

Five robbers went up to the second floor and robbed the Brilliant Gem store. Another suspect disarmed the store's security guard and held him at bay while four other armed men looted the store, Escobido added.

The robbers went out of the mall right as early-morning shoppers watched in shock. Other mall guards reportedly did not fire their guns lest they hit civilians.

"The robbers were quick," Escobido said. "It was all over in less than 10 minutes. The escape cars were already waiting for them outside."

FOREX COUNTER IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED
Foreign Exchange
IN

SEALED OFF after the daring heist is the foreign exchange counter at SM North. DENNIS SABANGAN

The robbers saw Remato as they fled. They thought he was going to fire at them and so they shot him down, Escobido said.

A few minutes after the robbery, policemen found the Honda Civic abandoned at a corner in Barangay Pag-Asa, also in Quezon City.

Police also found empty shells and an M203 grenade launcher in the car, which had a bullet hole in the windshield.

Jaraza said witnesses told investigators the passengers of the Civic transfer to the Revo.

Bus operators have no strike plan

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

METRO Manila bus operators said they would not go on strike anytime soon, at least not after a dialogue with the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC).

In a phone interview Thursday, Integrated Metro Bus Operators Association (Imboa) president Claire de la Fuente said bus operators would first sit down with DOTC officials before making their next move.

"We'll have a dialogue with them at the DOTC on Monday," she said. "We'll go on from there."

Earlier reports said bus operators, especially Imboa members, would go on strike in protest of the suspension of the flexibility rule in Metro Manila.

De la Fuente, however, said there was no reason for that as of now since transport officials expressed willingness to talk with them and allow them to air their sentiments.

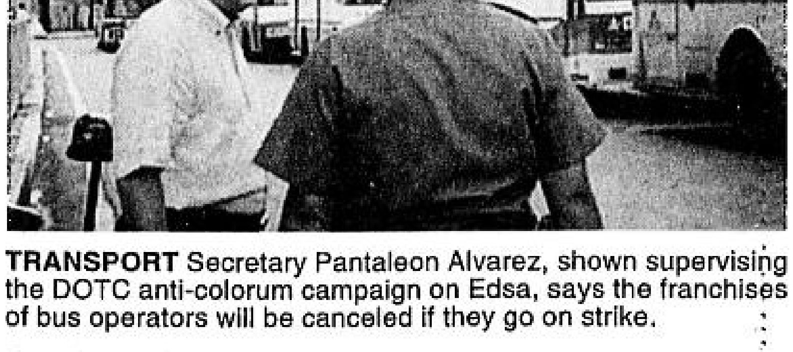
The flexibility rule allows operators with multiple lines to have some of their buses ply routes other than those specified in their franchises.

A bus with a Fairview-Ayala franchise could, for example, service the Baclaran-Monumento route.

Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez ordered the suspension of the flexibility rule in Metro Manila Sept. 24. This earned the ire of bus operators because, De la Fuente said, they stood to lose at least 40 percent of their daily revenues.

She said they were not properly consulted regarding the suspension of the rule.

"They suspended it just like that," she said. "They didn't even have an alternative plan for us."



TRANSPORT Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, shown supervising the DOTC anti-colorum campaign on Edsa, says the franchises of bus operators will be canceled if they go on strike.

But Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) chair Dante Lantin said the operators knew about the suspension as early as March with the passage of a resolution stating exactly that.

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News that makes a difference

Saving lives by dialing a number

WHEN Alfredo Dimas Jr., 25, woke up on the morning of July 16, 2001, he might not have expected that day would be any different from all the previous days of his life. It was a Monday and it meant the start of another week of plying his usual route as a pedicab driver in Sitio Kabatuhan in Gen. T. De Leon, Valenzuela City.

As it turned out, the day passed pretty much as usual all morning and the rest of the day. But about 6 p.m., Dimas happened to look up at the sky.

That was when he saw the figure of a man climbing up a Napocor high-tension tower just a short distance from where he had momentarily parked his pedicab.

As the man had not yet made much progress up the post, Dimas recognized him. It was none other than his neighbor Jack Raminto, who had lost his mind sometime ago following a succession of personal troubles.

Raminto, 41, used to work in the neighborhood bakery and had been separated from his wife for sometime.

As he continued his climb, Raminto laughed from time to time and talked to himself. Dimas called out to him a couple of times, but Raminto was oblivious to anything but his ascent.

Perhaps he planned to jump to his death from there, Dimas thought. Whatever was on his mind, though, he clearly was putting his life in danger.

Knowing he had to act quickly to get help, Dimas rushed to the *sari-sari* store of Beth Purisima to make a call. He had seen those TV ads about Hotline 117 and decided that the emergency warranted dialing the number.

Quick arrival

Patrol 117 operator Lea Amacio received Dimas' call. Amacio immediately relayed the report to the Valenzuela City police station.

The station in turn quickly dispatched a team led by SPO4 Rodolfo S. Reyes, 52, to the location of the incident. With Reyes were SPO2 Luisito Ventabal, 45; PO1 Romelo de Belen, 26; and PO1 Ronaldo Saldivar, 29.

With PO1 De Belen driving, the team arrived at the scene within five minutes. But by then, Raminto had made it to the top of the Napocor post.

After asking the crowd to step back, the police team called out their appeals to Raminto. They could not just go up the post themselves, as that might simply provoke him to jump.

SPO4 Reyes sent somebody to fetch anyone related to Raminto to help persuade him to come down. No one came.

For the next 30 minutes or so, the police officers patiently took turns convincing Raminto to come down.

Cheering crowd

Suddenly, just when they were about to lose hope, something they had stopped expecting happened.

"He just climbed down," recalls PO1 Saldivar.

QUICK RESPONSE team of Valenzuela police, led by SPO4 Rodolfo Reyes (left).

The crowd cheered, relieved that a tragedy had been averted. The police officers prepared to assist Raminto in his descent.

When they had escorted Raminto all the way down to street level, they began to interview him gently.

"I asked him why he thought of climbing that post," says SPO2 Ventabal.

"He said, '*Ang usapan namin nung nasa eroplano, doon ako dadagitin* (Our agreement was that the airplane would snatch me up from there)."

When they had calmed down Raminto, SPO4 Reyes and his men took him to their precinct to get some rest. Once at the precinct, "we gave him something to eat," Reyes reports, and they let him stay till the following morning.

In the morning they gave him breakfast before letting him go.

Tired but proud

SPO2 Ventabal describes how they felt about the rescue operation: "We felt good, if tired, because we helped someone."

"We feel proud" is SPO4 Reyes' more laconic reply. He says that since Call 117 became operational, more people report incidents and emergencies, "including family quarrels or fights between couples."

One thing about Call 117, says SPO4 Reyes, the parties that receive the call for help (the PLDT operator assigned to Call 117 and the Project EARnet* operator) call the precinct and the reporting party to check if help has been dispatched.

"They ask for feedback, they follow up," he says.

Raminto may still be seen loitering around Sitio Kabatuhan these days. "He enters the precinct now and then," says PO1 Saldivar.

Evidently he has come to regard them as his friends. After all they had treated him kindly.

Good deed

As for Dimas, he went home that evening feeling he had done a good thing. He had helped save someone's life. And Raminto's life, sad as it might seemed to be until then, deserved saving as much as anyone's.

Wonderful things do happen when you least expect them, like when Raminto simply decided to come down again. His own little act of heroism that evening was proof, too, of life's happy surprises.

The airplane that Raminto was expecting in his mind did not show up, but he discovered there still were people down below who cared whether he lived or died.

LIFESAVER Alfredo Dimas.

Project EARnet (Emergency Assistance and Response Network) is a network of highly trained emergency medical and rescue professionals under the Bureau of Fire Protection.

The network, divided into the Special Rescue Unit (SRU) and the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) team, responds to all forms of emergencies requiring rescue and medical assistance such as fires, floods, earthquakes and other natural disasters.

Whenever someone dials 117, a PLDT operator relays the call either to Project EARnet or, if the emergency is a police matter, to the nearest police station.

Insurance man turns full-time animal lover

(From page A23)

Then he and other PAWS volunteers thought of having their own newsletter. Until now, Lei does the layout and writes articles for the quarterly newsletter simply called PAWS.com.

Lei, now 47, is also in charge of the PAWS finances. A 1976 Feati University graduate of aeronautical engineering, Lei is also an artist on the side. For PAWS, he makes use of his skills in desktop publishing and even drawing cartoon strips. Even his salesmanship expertise is put to use during trade shows where the organization participates.

Pet loss

"I consider myself a full-time volunteer because I'm not doing anything aside from this," Lei said. The family depends on income from pieces of property that he rents out. His wife Lana is a teacher and runs a tutoring center.

"Our lifestyle is just modest, enough to keep body and soul together," Lei said.

He remembered growing up in Quiapo where he had his very first pet, a cat he named Muning. His first dog was a German shepherd, "although we're not very sure if it was purebred."

His first pet heartbreak was when his black cat died of old age. "I wouldn't eat. I kept crying I don't know for how long."

One way of getting over the loss of a pet is to write about it, he says. He did this when another cat, Socks, died last year. The article was published in the Junior Inquirer and another one came out in a website for animal welfare.

His children share his compassion for animals. His daughter Kimberlyn, 11, picks up stray kittens in the streets, and his son Kénichi, 12, takes good care of the other pets.

The Lei family now has seven cats: Felix, 13 years old; Tuxedo, 6; Simba, 5; Pooh, 3; Rosie, 2; Ponkan, 1; Tigger, 1; and a dog they fondly call Paws who is 4.

Personal encounters

Lei has had personal encounters with animal cruelty, particularly those involving cats and dogs that have short leashes, no water, no proper shelter, etc.

"In most cases, I would talk to the owner about improving the conditions of the pets," he said. "We try and make the owners see our views."

From time to time he gets calls to rescue a dog or a cat. Once, he was called to rescue a dog which people claimed had been pelted with stones.

"The dog was almost dead when I got there. I brought it to a friend's clinic."

Lei's does not consider his PAWS work a job but "a commitment. We don't want to see animals suffer."

In 1999, he was invited to attend the Animal Care Expo convention in Orlando, Florida. Before that, he had gone to Houston, Texas to visit an animal shelter.

Dream shelter

Lei and other PAWS members are bent on finishing the dream sanctuary for stray animals, the PAWS Animal Rehabilitation Center. "Right now, our priority is to get PARC operating," he said.

They also plan to come up with a humane education program that can be integrated into the primary school curriculum.

"The coming years will see PAWS conducting more rescues, spay/neuter program and education," he said.

PARC is meant to reduce the number of suffering dogs and cats in the streets. But to get the shelter and clinic moving, PAWS needs help in financing its operations.

He also dreams of the day "when PAWS will be the model and inspiration for other animal welfare organizations throughout the country. and when Filipinos will be more compassionate to animals."

Water rate approval sets 'a dangerous precedent'

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

THE LATEST hike in water rates which Malacañang approved has opened "the floodgates for abusing" the concession agreement between government and the Lopez-owned Maynilad Service Inc., a House party list representative warned.

"This will set a dangerous precedent," said Akbayan Rep. Loretta Anne Rosales.

She said when the newly approved increase takes effect Oct. 15, consumers will have to brace for at least two more quarterly rate adjustments up to the second quarter of 2002.

According to Rosales, the latest adjustment was made through an "amendment" introduced in the concession agreement allowing Maynilad to pass on to consumers the past and "future" losses it would incur from fluctuations in the peso-dollar exchange rate.

The Palace on Wednesday finally approved Maynilad's petition to raise water rates by P4.21 per cubic meter.

Maynilad customers will now be paying an average monthly water bill of P200, up by 60 percent from P150.

"The amendment provides for an accelerated and automatic recovery of not just past foreign exchange losses from August 1997 (during the Asian financial crisis) to December 2000, but future foreign exchange losses of the MWSI," Rosales said.

Danger sets in when other utilities begin to cite the Palace-approved amendment as a precedent to justify their own demand to increase rates by seeking "a similar arrangement with the government," she said.

"This is a mockery of the privatization policy of the government," the lawmaker said. "When a firm is privatized, (do we assume that) its risks like foreign exchange losses can be automatically passed on to consumers?

"The firm should share the burden of the loss rather than pass them on 100 percent to the consumers because that is part of the risk that it assumes."

Animals blessed in churches today

IN CELEBRATION of the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi and of World Animal Day on Oct. 4, the Philippine Animal Welfare Society is sponsoring an Animal Blessing Day today.

The animal blessing will be held at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway Centrum, New Manila, Quezon City, 12 noon; and at Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills, San Juan, 3 p.m.

At the Mt. Carmel Church, pets will walk down the aisle while the priest blesses them. A trained dog will carry a basket of flowers during the offertory.

Blessing at the Mary Queen Parish will be held on the church grounds.

Owners should bring their pets in carriers or cages, and put on their leashes. They should also bring old newspapers, plastic bags and tissue paper for their pets.

For more information, call PAWS at 724-6395, fax No. 724-1986 or e-mail paws_hg@compass.com.ph or readmypet@yahoo.com.

Drug test for cops

ALL policemen and firemen in Manila would be subjected to drug testing and would be summarily dismissed if found positive for drugs, the city government announced yesterday.

In a press statement, Mayor Lito Atienza said his office received reports that some city policemen and firemen were drug users, were directly involved in the sale of illegal drugs, or provided protection to drug dealers.

"The only thing worse than a corrupt policeman is a policeman who is a drug user," he said. "Aside from the fact that a law enforcer who is a drug user cannot perform his duties effectively, can you imagine what could happen if a drug-crazed cop armed with a gun runs wild?"

The drug tests are part of City Hall's two-day "service induction and reorientation" (SIR) program for the Western Police District's 3,177 members, according to the mayor's office.

SIR, conceptualized by the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, aims to arm WPD members, especially those assigned to the city for the first time, with the basic knowledge of Manila, such as geography, existing ordinance and the urban renewal program dubbed "Buhayin ang Maynila."

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RP film wins grand jury prize at US filmfest

By Bibeth Orteza

SIGUION-REYNA

RICKY Davao and Glydel Mercado in "Azucena"

POST-LINO Brocka Filipino participation in the international film festival scene, renewed by worldwide sales receipts of Mel Chionglo's "Sibak" in 1994, scored anew with Carlitos Siguion-Reyna's "Azucena" winning the top Grand Jury Prize in the San Diego (California) Asian Film Festival held Sept. 27-30.

The two-year-old festival organized by a group of Asian-American journalists aims to "present culturally sensitive and provocative stories that represent the richness and diversity of the Asian-American experience" and to provide a venue for "quality films that are produced, directed, written, acted by or about Asian-Americans or Asian issues."

The four-day event showcased a fine mix of feature films, documentaries, shorts, and animation.

"Azucena," a Reynafilms/Crown 7 production starring Dante Rivero, Ricky Davao, and Alessandra de Rossi from the Palanca Award-winning script of Enrique Ramos, competed with 15 other films in the feature film category—from Malaysia, China, India, Korea, the US, and three more from the Philippines: Laurice Guillen's "American Adobo," Rod Pulido's "The Flip Side," and Cyril Lorenzana's "Kamo (Scammers)."

This is not the first time a Filipino film has won in San Diego. The first festival gave Gene Cajayon's "Family Debut" (with Eddie Garcia, Gina Alajar and Tirso Cruz III, among others) the Best Dramatic Narrative Feature award.

The short film category screened works of young Filipino-American filmmakers distributed within 12 Shorts Program: "How 'Bout Cebu?" by Mark Arbitrario, "Earthworms" and "[f(X)]" by Matthew Abaya, "Staccato Fugue" by Teo Carlo Pulgar, "Pissed" by Charmaine Cruz, "S.T.D., Space Time Destroyers" by Roman Cortez and Chito Arellano, "Passport" by Don de Leon, "One-Week Wake" by Tammy Apana, and "Inferno" by Tricia Rodrigo.

The world premier of "American Adobo" was co-presented by the Filipino-American Chamber of Commerce and the San Diego County. The festival webpage also names Guillen "Philippine Cinema's most critically and commercially successful director."

Other filmfests

"Azucena" has been shown in the international film festivals of Toronto, Valladolid (Spain), Febio fest (Prague), Bratislava, Taiwan, Calgary, and American international film festivals in Palm Springs, San Francisco, Newport Beach, Cleveland and Seattle.

Siguion-Reyna previously won awards for "Kahapon May Dalawang Bata" (2 nd runner-up, 1999 People's Choice Awards, Toronto International Film Festival; Best Foreign Film, 2000 Newport Beach International Film Festival), "Ang Lalaki sa Buhay ni Selya (Special Jury Prize, Teddy Awards, 1998 Berlin International Film Festival; Best Asian Film, 1998 New Port Beach International Film Festival; Special Jury Prize, 1998 Turin Gay and Lesbian Int'l Film Festival;) and "Aangkinin Ko ang Bukas" (Best Movie for Television, 1996 Singapore International Film Festival).

A 1996 TOYF awardee for Arts/Cinema, Siguion-Reyna also received a FOCUS (Films of College and University Students in the US) award in 1989 for his thesis film on Filipino TNTs in America, starring Phillip Salvador.

Other triumphs

A short list of post-Brocka Filipino film triumphs abroad must make proud mention of Raymond Red's Palme d'Or in Cannes 1999 for "Anino" (short-film category); Joel Lamangan's 1995 Cairo International Film Festival Best Picture award for "The Flor Contemplacion Story," Chito Roño's Best Picture Award for "Bata, Bata, Paano Ka Ginawa," 1999 Brussels Independent International Film Festival); Marilou Diaz-Abaya's People's Choice award for "Jose Rizal" in the 1999 Chicago International Film, Festival, and her achievement award this year from the Fukuoka International Film Festival.

Recognition is in order for Filipino filmmakers whose works have been giving honor to the country within the past twelve months.

Gil Portes ("Markova" in Toronto, will go to Brussels, Stockholm, Rome, the Asian Film Festival and Hawaii, and "Gatas" is the country's representative to the next Academy Awards Best Foreign Language Film category); Joel Lamangan ("Death Row" in Toronto, will go to Cairo, and "Bulaklak ng Maynila" was in Febiofest at Prague and Bratislava, after Toronto); Mel Chionglo ("Lagarista" in Febiofest at Prague and Bratislava, after Toronto and Pusan); Jose Bratislava, after Berlin and the San Francisco Asian-American Film Festival); Erik Matti ("Scorpio Nights 2," Autumn Film Festival in Paris).

Jeffrey Jeturian ("Pila Balde." Autumn Film Festival, Febiofest at Prague, Bratislava, Bogota Film Festival competition, 3rd Far East Film Festival in Udine, Iatly, and "Tuhog" went to the 58th Venice Film Festival, and the Sao Paolo Film Festival competition). Tikoy Aguiluz ("Ang Bagong Buwan." Febiofest at Prague and Bratislava, after Berlin); Tikoy Aguiluz ("Ang Bagong Bayani," Febiofest at Prague and Bratislava); and Rory Quintos ("Anak," Febiofest at Prague and Bratislava and this year's entry to the last Academy Awards Foreign Language Film competition).

Save for the last two,' Guillen, Diaz-Abaya and Roño, all are members of the Directors' Guild of the Philippines.

Support program

It is highly hoped that these accomplishments finally push the government to come up with a film program that will support the continuous production of quality films and their exhibition abroad.

The Philippine movie industry continues to be the country's most-heavily taxed industry, with a perpeso income split between government, theater owner and producer.

Right now, only film pirates are laughing merrily on their way to the bank. They don't pay taxes, and are not afraid of being caught. They must have a *padrino*.

Music and Manhunt at Padi's Mindave 'OctoBeerfest'

MINDAVE'S "OctoBEERfest" will celebrate three major entertainment events at Padi's Point on Mindanao Avenue in Quezon City.

South Border band performs with the "Metroface Models on Ramp" fashion show on Monday, Oct. 8.

New singing talent Jenn Lopez of Ivory Records and Westwood band will also perform as front-act. The show is produced by Metroface Modelling Agency and Mindave Entertainment Corp., with America's bestselling Budweiser beer as major sponsor.

On Tuesday, Oct. 9, the Manhunt pageant produced by Lara Fabregas and Raymond Bagatsing will hold a sponsors' night party at Padi's Mindave with 22 top male models. Winner of the Manhunt pageant will receive $1,00 and will represent the Philippines in the international grand finals.

Padi's Mindave owner, writer Wilson Y. Lee Flores, also invites music-lovers to join the ongoing Mindave singing competition for adults and children every Sunday night, as well as the forthcoming Mindave Battle of the Bands.

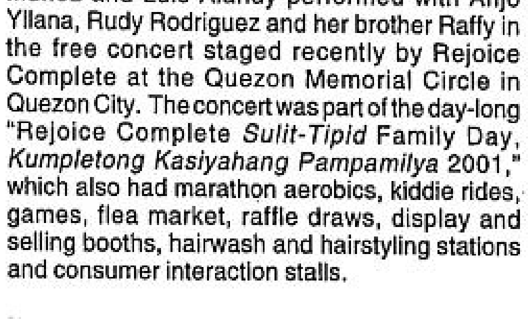
Grand prize winners will enjoy a 3-day Boracay vacation for two from 7107 Travel Corp., as well as cash and other prizes from Mindave Entertainment Corp.

For inquiries, call 453-0080 or 414-4930 to 34 or 925-3117.

SOUTH BORDER

'REJOICE COMPLETE' FAMILY DAY

Teen stars Justin Cuyugan, Leandro and Angelo Muñoz and Luis Alandy performed with Anjo Yllana, Rudy Rodriguez and her brother Raffy in the free concert staged recently by Rejoice Complete at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City. The concert was part of the day-long "Rejoice Complete *Sulit-Tipid* Family Day, *Kumpletong Kasiyahang Pampamilya* 2001," which also had marathon aerobics, kiddie rides, games, flea market, raffle draws, display and selling booths, hairwash and hairstyling stations and consumer interaction stalls.



RED HOT RED VELVET

The Red Velvet band, whose repertoire is heavy on revivals, performs at Strumms El Pueblo on Wednesdays, at Stix on Thursdays and at Dish Rockwell on Fridays. The band is composed of vocalists Tacy Castañeda, Ella Palermo and Mitch Server, Jojo Palermo on keyboad, Rey Escalada on bass, Ardie de Guzman on lead, and Allen Policarpio on drums.

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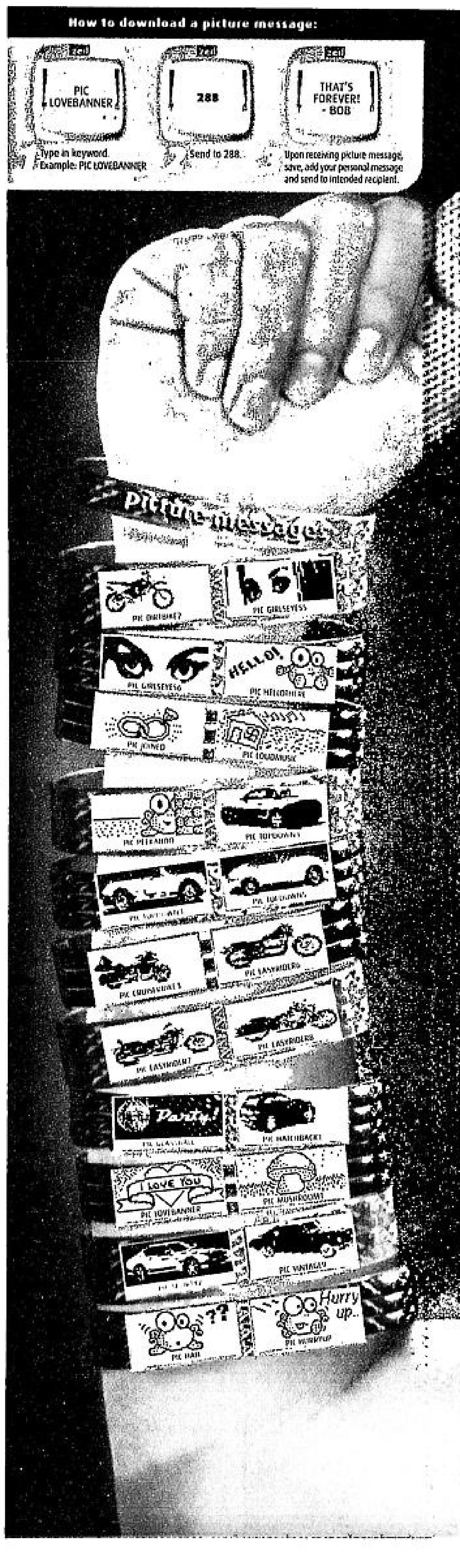

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Sniper's war

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WE'VE been seeing a spate of war movies this past year, but "Enemy at the Gates" is a different kind of war picture because it focuses on the role of snipers in the battle of Stalingrad in 1942 and 1943.

That was an epic conflict that turned out to be one of the defining moments of World War II. While it involved hundreds of thousands of German and Russian troops, however, it also had its smaller but no less vital focus on **Vissili Zaitsev**, an expert sniper whose extraordinary feats of courage and cunning bolstered the Russian Army's flagging spirits and enabled it to finally vanquish the much-better-equipped Germans.

It was a disastrous military defeat that turned the tide of the war in the Russians' favor. And, as this film sees it, it all began with one man, Zaitsev (**Jude Law**), who first got Russian Army generals' attention when he killed five German officers in a single day!

A young Russian political officer (**Joseph Fiennes**) saw in Zaitsev the perfect hero to galvanize the Russian forces defending Stalingrad, and he put the expert sniper on the front page of the Army's newspaper.

In no time at all, other young snipers were following Zaitsev's example, and as the ranks of German officers began to be decimated, the outcome of the war turned in Russia's favor.

This unexpected development and its portents for the future worried the Germans so much that they sent their own ace sniper, **Major Konig (Ed Harris)**, to Stalingrad with the sole mission of neutralizing (killing) Zaitsev at all cost.

This is when the film changes its focus, from a wide-angle view of the war to an intensely intimate close-up two master snipers hunting each other in the detritus of war, each trying to second-guess and second-think the other.

The film acquires a hypnotic, psychological feel that makes it an especially absorbing viewing experience. Film director **Jean-Jacques Annaud** ushers us into the two snipers' minds and hearts to make their deadly game of cat and mouse acutely real for us.

The point is that, to trap his cunning prey, each sniper must try to think and feel like his intended victim. With these two brilliant snipers on the prowl, this is by no means an easy task, so the movie's excitement builds up to fever pitch.

To be sure, the film has its lapses that detract from the totality of its dramatic effect. Some scenes are too ruminative, and they slow down the storytelling's upward progression. The motivations of some characters, like the political officer played by Fiennes, are also occasionally contradictory.

On the whole, however, "Enemy at the Gates" holds together well enough as a story of one man's heroism that inspires an entire army. Law's portrayal of Zaitsev paces the rest of the cast; **Rachel Weisz** is fiercely passionate as **Tania**, who's loved by both Law and Fiennes' characters; and Harris is coolly malevolent as Zaitsev's arch-foe.

On special assignment

Join best-selling author and journalist **Sebastian Junger** ("The Perfect Storm") and photographer **Reza** on a special assignment for the National Geographic Channel in Afghanistan in "Frontline Diaries: Into the Forbidden Zone" at 9 p.m. today, Oct. 7, and meet Afghan rebel leader **Ahmed Shah Massoud**.

The one-hour documentary chronicles the rebels' fight to free Afghanistan from the control of the Taliban. Two days before the Sept. 11 attack on New York and Washington, Massoud was attacked by suicide bombers at his camp, and was later pronounced dead on Sept. 15. His followers accuse **Osama bin Laden** of orchestrating the attack on Massoud, like he did the assaults on the USA.

Junger and Reza were smuggled into the only section of battle-ravaged Afghanistan not controlled by the Taliban. Dodging explosives and bullets, they gained unprecedented access to Massoud, the legendary and elusive "Lion of Panjshir" as he planned his next offensive.

Aga: My days with women are over

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

AGA Muhlach is excited about the coming of his and wife **Charlene Gonzales'** twins, a boy and a girl, in November. As early as May, even before their Baguio wedding, Aga already knew Charlene would be having twins.

"I was asking before why God instantly gave me kids," Aga says. "But I guess that was really His plan so I would no longer have excuses. After being a husband, I will become a father (again)."

The actor says it has not been a difficult pregnancy for Charlene, who was even allowed by her gynecologist, Dr. **Greg Pastorfide** of the Makati Medical Center, to host the weekly program "Keep on Dancing" on ABS-CBN.

"They say you'll see the worst in a girl when she's pregnant," Aga grants. "But Charlene never gave me headaches. She is really very kind. She allows me to do anything I want."

Aga swears his days with women are over.

"I've had enough of my bachelorhood. Getting married is no joke. It's different when you don't want to stay up late after work and you just want to go home. Whenever I'm out, I always look forward to going home."

While waiting for the arrival of their babies, Aga has also been busy taping for his new sitcom, "Da Pilya en Da Pilot," with **Joyce Jimenez**. It replaces "Da Body en Da Guard," which ran for only one season also on ABS-CBN.

"It's not good to see the daughter of the boss falling for her bodyguard," Aga explains. "Now, this new sitcom is more realistic because I have my own chartered plane business which I inherited from my uncle.

"Joyce plays an aerobics instructor and she works in a gym. Our relationship in the sitcom is more open. The rest of the characters have also moved on to the next level."

MUHLACH. Dad the second time around.

"Da Pilya en Da Pilot" is directed by **Johnny Manahan**, the network's leading resident director.

With Joyce and Aga in the cast are **Roderick Paulate, Wilma Doesnt, Sammy Lagmay, Gina Pareño, Bearwin Meily, John Prats, Heart Evangelista** and **Bonggoy Manahan**.

Janno's most important album

I SAW **Janno Gibbs** during the recent concert of international R&B singer **Brian McKnight** at Hard Rock Café. Janno said he sneaked out from the taping of his GMA 7 sitcom, "Beh Botch Nga" that night just so he could watch Brian perform live.

I congratulated Janno on his latest album, "Divas and I," because of its novel concept. Viva Records released the album that gave Janno a chance to record songs with the country's leading divas.

"It's not every day that you get to make an album like that and work with such great singers," he says.

Janno considers "Divas and I" the most important album he has done. As the title says, he duets with the industry's divas.

I particularly like his duet with **Verni Varga** in "Umagang Kay Ganda," which was originally recorded by **Tillie Moreno** and **Ray-An Fuentes**.

Janno sings a **Wency Cornejo** composition, "Walang Hanggan," with **Kuh Ledesma**; the **Rey Valera** classic, "Kung Kailangan Mo Ako," with **Jaya**; the **Barbra Streisand** hit, "Evergreen," with **Regine Velasquez**; the **Butch Monserrat** composition "I Don't Love You Anymore" with **Zsa Zsa Padilla**; **Burt Bacharach**'s "I Say a Little Prayer" with **Pops Fernandez**; **Chaka Khan**'s heart-wrenching hit "Through the Fire" with **Lani Misalucha**; "Everyday," a **Mon Espia** composition originally recorded by **Agot Isidro**, with **Rachel Alejandro**.

Asia's Queen of Songs **Pilita Corrales** also honors Janno's album with their duet in "Kapantay ay Langit," penned by **George Canseco**. Two of the most important women in Janno's life also grace "Divas and I"—his wife **Bing Loyzaga** in "Wind Beneath My Wings," and his sister **Melissa Gibbs** in the Beatles hit "Here Comes the Sun."

The album also boasts of some of the best arrangers in the music scene, such as **Jay Durias** of South Border, **Albert Tamayo, Marvin Querido, Marc Lopez** and **Mon Espia**.

'Weakest Link'

STARTING this month, Edu will host a new game show, "Weakest Link," which will serve as post-programming to the top-rating program on Philippine TV today, "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire."

Viva-TV has secured the rights to "Weakest Link" and the outfit is optimistic that the new game show will equal the success of "Millionaire."

We were able to view an episode of "Weakest Link" during the formal launch held at Bayview Plaza Hotel last week.

"Weakest Link" was introduced only last June over UK's BBC 2 channel and is a cross between "Survivor" and "Millionaire."

Like "Millionaire," "Weakest Link" also offers a cash prize of P1 million.

"That's really the going rate for game shows today," says **Baby Gil** from the Viva Group of Companies. "If you give a prize lower than that, it's not a good come-on for the show."

Compared to "Millionaire," however, where you have lifelines to help you for the right answer, "Weakest Link" is more tension-filled for the contestants since there is a time limit and you have to answer the question right away.

Eight contestants get to outdo each other and answer the questions over a specified time limit. For each correct answer, they get a link in the chain. At the end of every round, the contestants are asked to vote off who they think is the "weakest link" and the participant who gets the most votes is sent out of the game. Of course, the one who goes out is the contestant who gave away mostly the wrong answers. This continues until only two people remain in the final round.

"Weakest Link" will be aired at 9:30 p.m. on IBC 13, after "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire."

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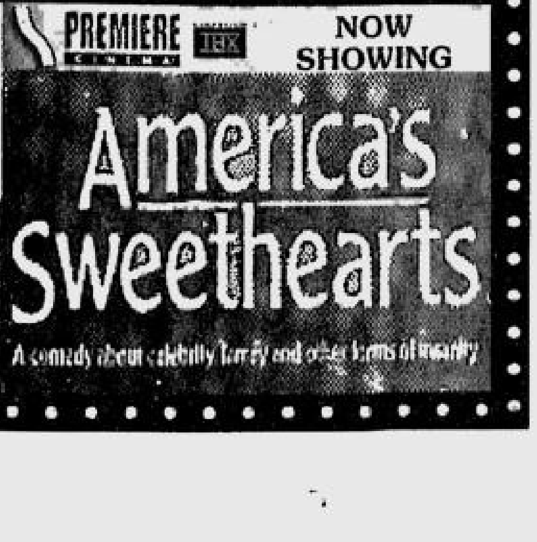

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ORIGINAL SIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	ST. FRANCIS VILLE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	MR. NICE GUY
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TAILS OF EROTICA / NAG AAPOY NA LANGIT
ODEON	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
ODEON-2	MR. NICE GUY
ROBEN	SISID
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	SWORDFISH / FINAL FANTASY
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	SISID
REMAR	SISID
REMAR-2	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
B	SISID
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	FAST & FURIOUS
CINEMA-2	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	MANO MANO 2
CINEMA-3	PUKYUTAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-6	A.I.
CINEMA-7	BURLESK QUEEN
CINEMA-8	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
CINEMA-12	SCARY MOVIE 2
CINEMA-14	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-15	BANYO QUEEN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THE FAST & THE FURIOUS
CINEMA-2	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-4	HEART BREAKERS
CINEMA-5	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-6	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

Boy band a1 in Manila, Cebu

THE BRITISH boy band known as a1, whose hits include "Take on Me," starts its two-night, two-city concert series with a live performance tonight at 8 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City.

The show, presented by Philips Audio, will also feature top local band South Border as front act.

The British pop quartet moves to Cebu City for another show on Tuesday, Oct.. 9, at 7 p.m., at the ballroom of the Cebu Waterfront Hotel.

Billed as **"a1: The A List Tour,"** the 90-minute Araneta show will feature the British band's hit songs from the past two years, such as "Like a Rose," "Heaven by Your Side," "Everytime/Ready or Not," "Take on Me" and many more.

Composed of Paul Marazzi, Christian Ingebrigsten, Mark Read and Ben Adams, a1 burst into the international pop scene in 1999 with "Be the First to Believe," which debuted at No. 6, followed by the No. 5 hit "Summertime of Our Lives" and "A Everytime/Ready or Not," which scored a No. 3 smash.

Aside from creating and performing original compositions, a1 also writes songs for other artists, which ultimately led them to secure a major publishing contract with Sony Music in the record company's biggest UK deal.

Other stops in its Asian swing are Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei and Thailand.

Tickets are available at Ticketnet outlets in all SM Department stores and at the Araneta Coliseum. Call 911-5555 for reservation and inquiries on the Araneta Coliseum show.

For the Waterfront Hotel concert, call 3442091.

Kris . . .

(From page A29)

will have the chance to share in the million-peso round," says Kris.

"Of course, the higher you go, the more money is at stake, but if you make it past the face-off round and into the solo round, it's guaranteed that you'll go home with at least P100,000."

She says it's also "a very visual show," with different lighting setups, high-tech game consoles and a large video wall all around the "Game K N B?" set in ABS-CBN's Studio 2.

Kris is undaunted by the fact that she is the only woman now hosting a high-profile game show. "Number one, I think I have the advantage of being on ABS-CBN. And secondly, although (fellow game show hosts Christopher de Leon and Edu Manzano) will also be hosting game shows, theirs are imported franchises—both 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire' and 'The Weakest Link' are British.

"Seriously, if I didn't host the show, I'd be joining," she adds. "*Gusto ko talaga.*"

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Kris hosts new game show

KRIS Aquino, Star Awards 2000's Best Show biz Oriented Talk Show Host, hosts her first game show when ABS-CBN premieres its own high-stakes primetime game show "Game Ka Na Ba? (Game K N B?)" on Monday, Oct. 8, right after "Camilla."

"Game K N B?" is a 30-minute game show that involves both celebrities and home-based "text partners" in a futuristic, visually stimulating quiz show.

"What makes this show different is that it's 100 percent Filipino in concept," says Kris. "ABS-CBN stands behind its belief in the Filipino talent. About six months of conceptualizing, brainstorming, format meetings and art design studies were put in to come up with the final look and format of 'Game K N B?' and we're all very proud of the result."

So what's "Game K N B?" about?

"Simply put, we're telling people that yes, dreams can come true," says Kris. "It's challenging because your brain will be put to work, but so will your heart—you're not doing it for yourself, but for the people you love."

What sets "Game K N B?" apart from other game shows is interactivity. It introduces the "text-partner," who can join the game by purchasing exclusive ABS-CBN icons and picking out a 6-game letter combination.

Anyone can be a text-partner in "Game K N B?" And if your combination-entry corresponds to the winning combination that will gradually be revealed throughout the program, "then you

KRIS/ A28

AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
OPENS OCT. 17 (Wed.)
Art Film
MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted | Strictly for ADULTS. No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
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"TWO THUMBS UP!"
about Adam
PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
stuart TOWNSEND frances O'CONNOR charlotte BRADLEY & kate HUDSON
He's the most outrageous secret three sisters ever kept... from each other.
about Adam
A Romantic Comedy About A Tale Of Familial Sexual Intrigue
Lucy Owens has terrible luck in love. While doing her routine of singing torch songs, waiting tables, and complaining about her love life, she meets Adam. The two exchange just one look and Lucy is ready to marry him. However, Adam proves to be unpredictable as he sets out to date Lucy's sisters, Alice and Laura. A waitress falls for a handsome customer who seduces her, her two sisters, her brother, and her brother's girlfriend.
Featured at the Sundance Film Festival.

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Natassja KINSKI
Goldie HAWN
Porter Stoddard (Warren Beatty) is a well-known New York architect who is at a crossroads; a nexus where twists and turns lead to a myriad of missteps - some with his wife Ellie (Diane Keaton), others with long time friends Mona (Goldie Hawn) and her husband Griffin (Gary Shandling). Deciding which direction to take often leads to unexpected encounters with hilarious consequences in this comedy about life, love, friendship and the sometimes blistering nature of marital bliss.

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HEARTBREAKERS - P 13 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45	ORIGINAL SIN - R 18 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:20	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10

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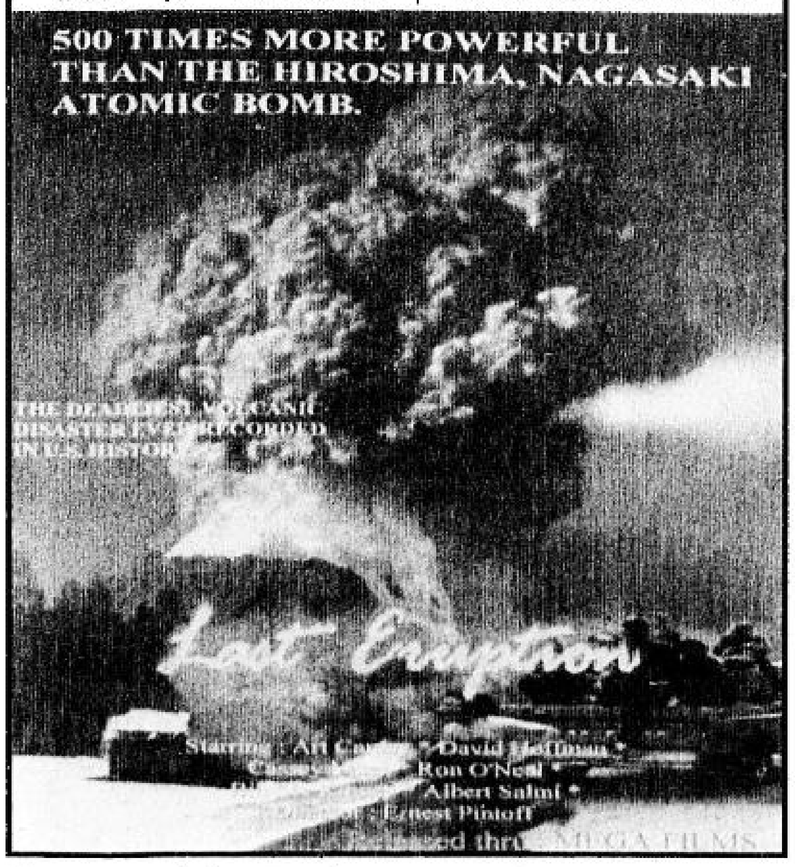
TONTON GUTIERREZ
RAYMOND BAGATSING
and
PATRICIA JAVIER
EDDIE GUTIERREZ
GLADYS REYES
JETHRO RAMIREZ
and
DAISY REYES
ROBIN DA ROSA
SAMANTHA LOPEZ
STELLA L.
PERLA BAUTISTA
P.P. Vs. ADVINCULA
Criminal Case No. 001-04525
MARITAL RAPE
GLO-HERBAL
• FOOD SUPPLEMENTS
• ALL AROUND CREAM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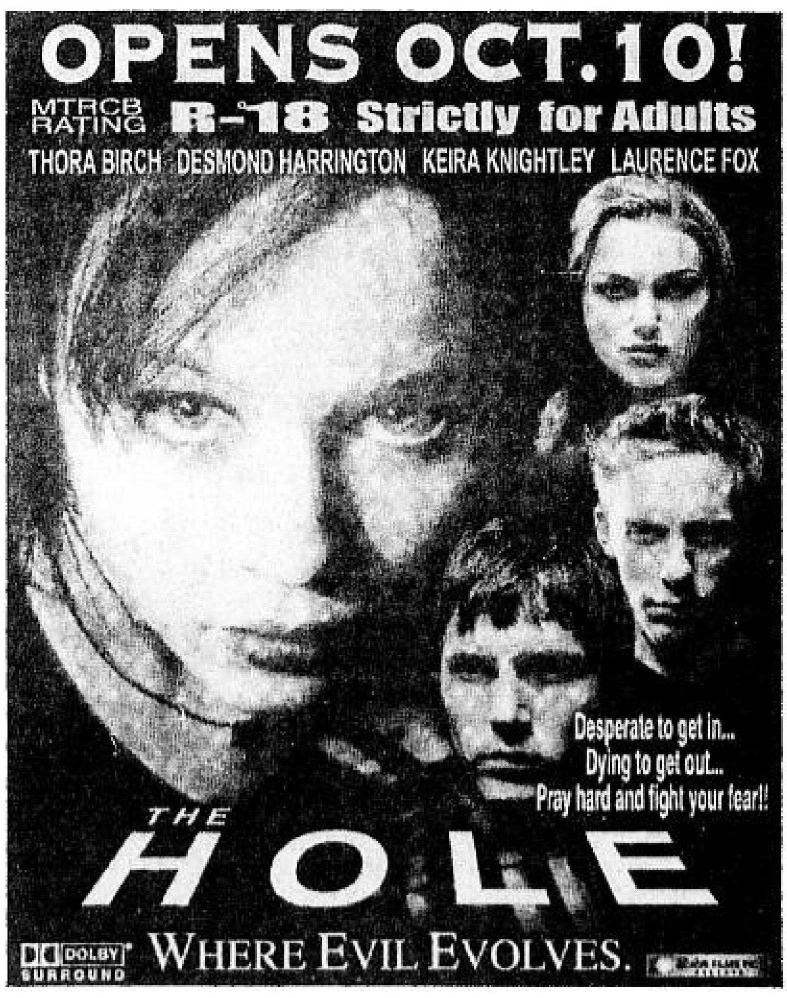
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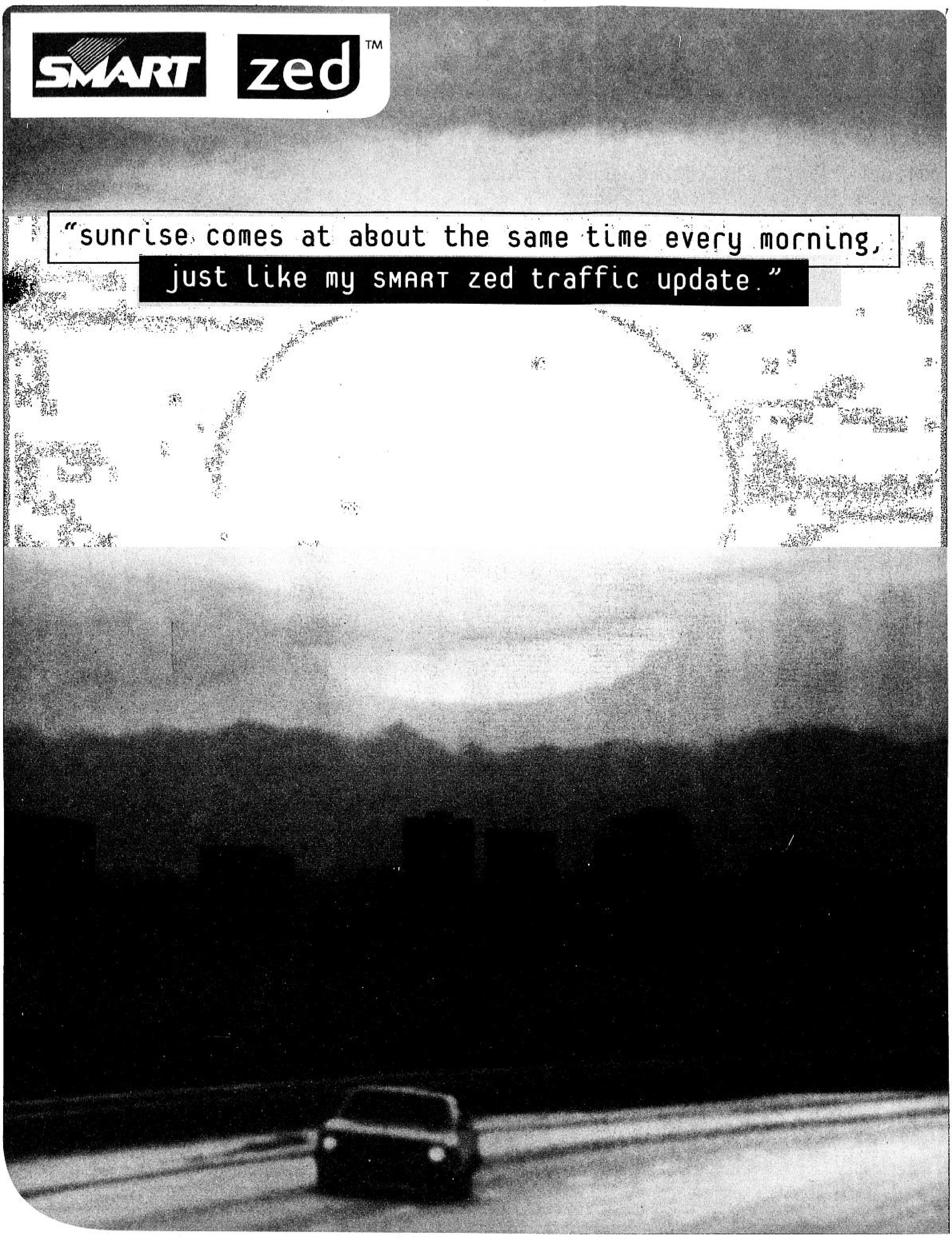
Dying to get out...
Pray hard and fight your fear!!
THE HOLE
DOLBY SURROUND
WHERE EVIL EVOLVES.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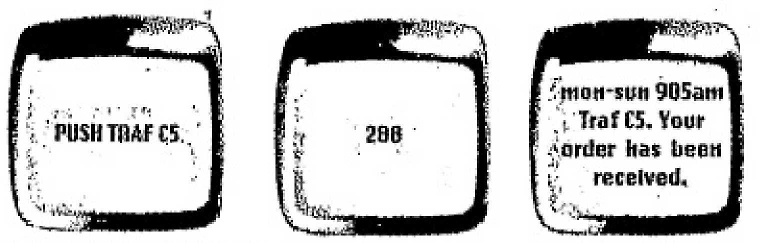
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Sunday BIZ
Raul O. Marcelo, Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**, Business Features Editor

Bright boy reaches the top via bright ideas

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

HE IS one of the country's very bright (but very low key) boys in the real estate industry.

His clients include the taipans Henry Sy, Lucio Tan (whom he calls *Tatang*), Andrew Gotianun, and even John Gokongwei.

Danilo Antonio has achieved enough financially and professionally to last him a lifetime and he attributes it to his challenging childhood, which provided him the impetus to do what he has done so far.

When he was young, he considered himself a little different from the other kids his age because he was adopted. He only learned about it a few years before his mother passed away.

No one else knew about it except his parents. But the adopted child turned out to be very intelligent.

Antonio grew up in Chinatown, the heart of Philippine business decades ago, and was raised by a Chinese couple. He learned to speak the language, studied in Chinese schools and absorbed their culture. His Chinese benefactors helped him well. With their help, he graduated summa cum laude in Economics from the De La Salle University. He was in the same batch as another bright boy, Gerry Ablaza, who is now president of telecommunications giant Globe Telecom.

Teaching

He had the choice of jobs when he graduated, given his stellar educational background, but he decided to go into teaching.

"I feel like all these are borrowed—what I am. So the least I could do is transfer what I know. That's why I want to teach," he says.

After finishing his master in Business Management from the Asian Institute of Management, where he graduated (as expected) with distinction, Antonio joined the Ayala Corp. where he spent 10 years of his professional life in.

There he met Alfred Xerex-Burgos, his mentor and future partner in Land Co., the successful real estate firm that started as a consultancy firm and eventually went into development when the Metro Pacific Group came in.

Xerex-Burgos used to head Ayala, and when he left in 1990 he asked Antonio to join him in setting up Landco.

Antonio had already quit Ayala two years before and started teaching at the AIM. He quit to join Burgos and take up the post of chief operating officer.

BRIGHT/ B5

ANTONIO with partner Alfred Xerex-Burgos

Bicol gears up for rising abaca exports

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NAGA CITY—Prospects may be dim for most export products, but not for the good old abaca.

It was one of the country's first major exports to the world market at the turn of the century and with demand again picking up, it is well on its way to becoming one again.

Abaca was said to have the brightest export prospects in the world market because it is used as raw material in a wide array of products, an official of the Fiber Industry Development Authority (Fida) said.

Lourdes Segarra, Fida market specialist, said the demand for abaca products has consistently increased by 2.5 percent every year while market openings for abaca pulp are growing.

Segarra said that among the countries that have added to the list of big importers of abaca pulp is Russia.

She said the abaca pulp, which comprised 41 percent of the total abaca products export in year 2000, is considered the growth area of the industry and has been showing increasing demand from other countries.

Segarra said that far from the knowledge of an ordinary Filipino, abaca pulp is the raw material used in making meat casing, tea bags, cigarette papers, cigarette filters, microglass air filters, disposable diapers, napkins, X-ray negative and many others, which include currency papers.

Pulp exports

From the Bicol region, the main importers of abaca pulp are South Korea and Japan while it comprised 96 percent of the local consumption here, with two operating paper pulp companies.

According to a document obtained by the Inquirer, the pulp sector of the abaca industry has accounted for about 54 percent of the total local consumption in the past 10 years, which has grown by 4.1 percent.

While Japan and Germany absorb the bulk of the abaca pulp exports from the Philippines, other countries like France, United Kingdom, China and Taiwan are demanding an increasing quantity.

During the period from 1991 to 2000 alone, about 76 percent of export earnings came from abaca manufactures, including fiber crafts and cordage.

The total abaca product export has earned an average of $80 million a year.

The United States remains the biggest market for the abaca cordage the Philippine produces.

Abaca cordage comprises 13 percent of the total export of abaca manufactures.

The Philippines dominates the world market for abaca with a share of 86 percent and the remaining 14 percent by Ecuador.

But the present dominance is a far cry from the 1920s when the Philippines virtually monopolized the world market of abaca.

Historical records have shown that abaca had been a part of the natives' lives even before the Spaniards came in 1521.

Indigenous in the country, abaca plant grows abundantly with the warm and wet and volcanic ashes suited to its cultivation.

Americans

However, it was only in 1820 that abaca was introduced to the world market after an American lieutenant of the US Navy brought a sample of abaca to the United States.

At the start of the 20th century, abaca fibers have become the premier export commodity of the Philippines with Americans establishing plantations in Davao.

The Americans were said to have spread abaca cultivation in Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras using the best Philippine abaca varieties.

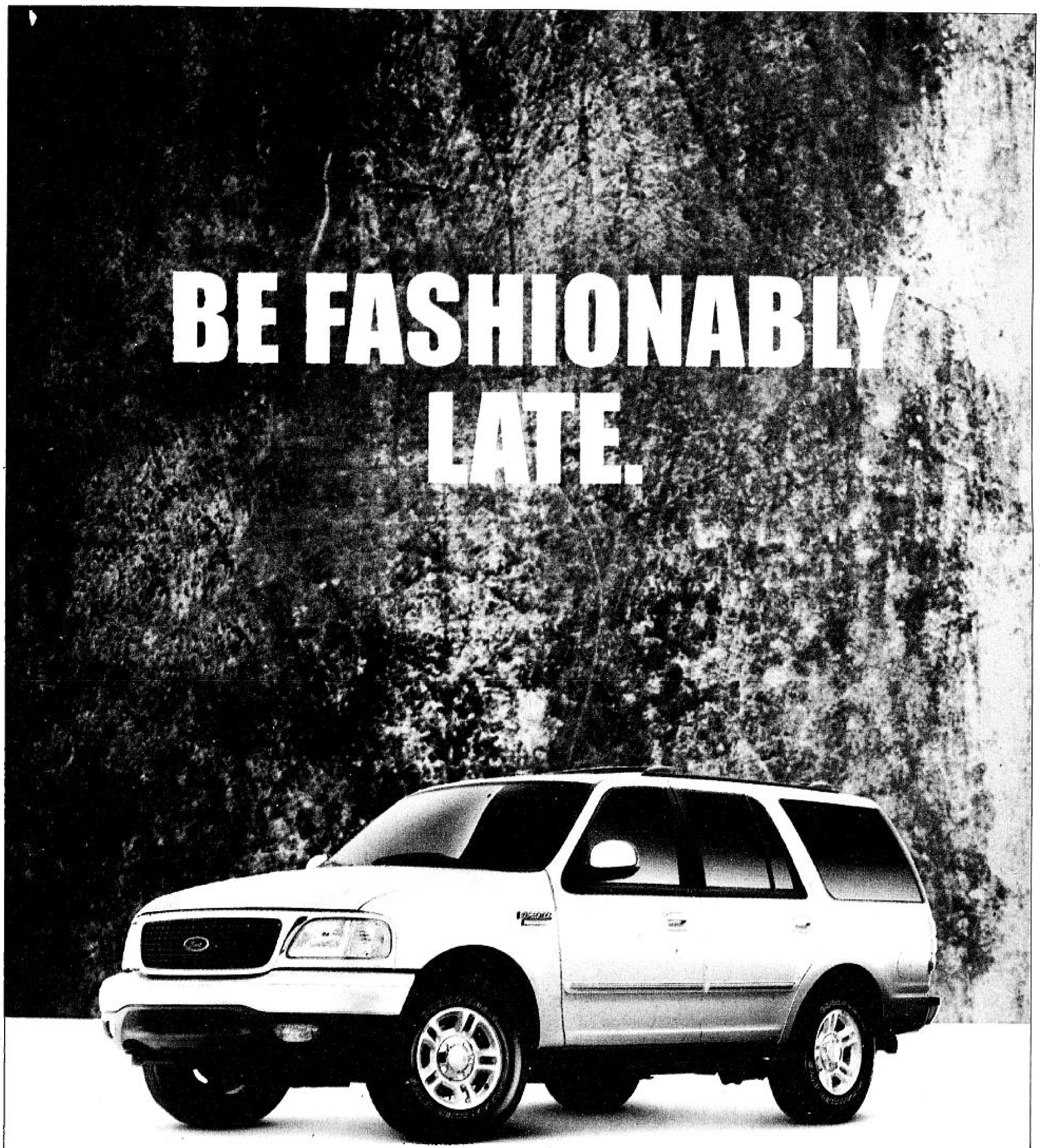
But it was a Japanese named Furukawa who successfully cultivated abaca plant from Davao in Ecuador, the only competitor of the Philippines in the world market.

After a slump in the abaca industry due mainly to the advent of synthetic fibers, at present the production of abaca in the Philippines has been relatively stable during the past 10 years.

Among the 41 abaca-producing provinces in the Philippines, two Bicol provinces comprised 24.8 percent of the total abaca production—Catanduanes, which tops the list with a 19.4-percent share, and Sorsogon, with 5.4 percent.

Bicol remains the region with the biggest area planted to abaca even as it slipped to the second rank in terms of production compared to the total production in the Visayas, which occupies the top rank.

"But with the proper cultivation technology and resolution of problem of bunchy top disease and the widening world market, Bicol region has bright prospects in abaca that will benefit the whole regional economy," Segarra said.



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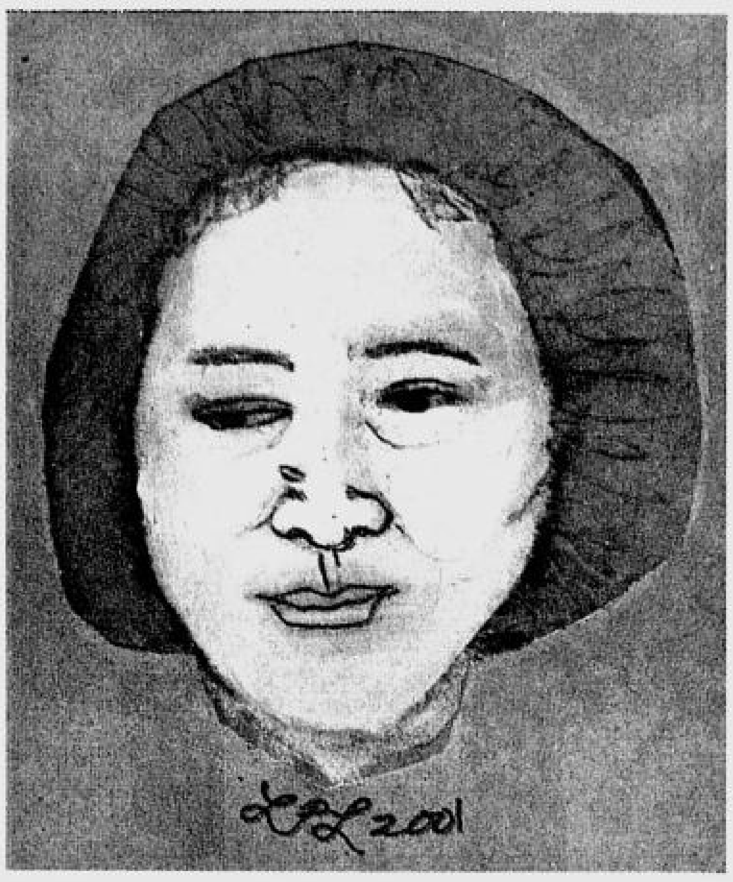

BUDGET Secretary Emilia Boncodin is hard-pressed these days to look for ways to trim the budget deficit. It is a problem that she inherited from her predecessors. Everybody hopes that she would find the elusive solution to this thorny problem that has baffled many administrations before.

FILIPINO software firm Jupiter Systems designed a Personnel Management Information System for the Armed Forces of the Philippines to address personnel management and administration needs. In photo are Jupiter president Fermin Taruc and AFP Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling Jr.

Mergers and acquisitions: Be with winners, not losers

EXECUTIVE READ

"Mergers and Acquisitions"
Harvard Business Review
Harvard Business School Press, 2001

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

HYPHENATED names have been punctuating the corporate landscape—Equitable-PCI, Bristol Myers-Squibb, PLDT-Smart, to name a few—rivaling the prominence of high powered women executives resisting pressures to drop their maiden names in favor of the husbands' not so famous appellations.

Reason: The marriage of two corporations—by shotgun or by consent—has not spared even our corporate world. Mergers and acquisitions (you must recognize them when they are abbreviated as "M & A" to be "in") have actually been going on in key financial and business centers around the world.

Sometimes the two names survive in a "merger of equals." Other times, one name survives and the other is consigned to oblivion, instantly telling us which management team members march in as conquering heroes and who settle for a "second-class citizenship" in what was once their domain.

We read the outcomes of these highly dramatic mergers or acquisitions—and about boards reorganizing to reflect the entry of the "new centurions."

In more mundane terms, we hear happy stories of friends being catapulted to CEO or COO positions, and hear sad tales of those who lose their plush offices, executive parking slots, executive elevator privileges or, worse, their shirts.

Locally, the high-profile mergers and acquisitions even had the presidential finger dipped into them, transferring big sums of money to finance the corporate move—which is now the subject of a celebrated plunder case.

You ask: Is it possible to have a merger from a purely business standpoint, bereft of politics?

That's the problem. In the Philippine context, business and politics are hard to extricate from each other. You, therefore, need—just this once—to detach yourself from the Philippine setting to learn the fundamentals and the finer points of this exciting game.

A book titled "Harvard Business Review on Mergers and Acquisitions" is an excellent piece of literature for you if you want to know any of the following: How to make mergers succeed, how to master the fine art of friendly acquisition, how to evaluate if you are paying too much for an acquisition, how to integrate two cultures in a merged company, how to save a merger that is about to collapse, and how to use the experts in merging, acquiring and integrating.

This is not a textbook on the M&A game, one that has acquired a mystique to business observers and spectators like many of us. This Harvard-published book has steered clear of the jargon that succeeds only in confounding, not enlightening, many of us. After all, we also have every right to know what is happening in boardrooms and golf courses.

Don't miss the CEO roundtable discussion which features the "acquirers" and the "acquired"—particularly one whose company was acquired by Yahoo! for $3.7 billion; or an insurance firm which made two major acquisitions worth $2.2 billion; or a consulting firm which has made a $6.6-billion takeover; and many more stories.

One chapter in the book offers some food for thought for acquirers: A "low premium purchase" does not necessarily result in a high return on investment. On the contrary, those who pay a high premium generate high returns, as shown by the book in 20 M&A deals.

Some say that the acquiring team should speak with "one voice." Some featured CEOs and M&A experts disagree. Robert Aiello and Michael Watkins disagree: "Successful acquirers usually divide their deal team into two or three separate negotiating groups—managers, lawyers and investment bankers."

The book has qualitative and quantitative analyses on any aspect of the M&A deal, and you are actually ushered into their strategic and tactical moves to the last detail. However, lest you come away wondering what the best strategy is, one chapter is wholly devoted to GE Capital. After assimilating more than 100 acquisitions for the past five years alone, GE capital has developed, in the process, a model on how to do it—and succeed.

GE Capital's four consultants offer four valuable lessons: First, begin the integration process before the deal is signed; second, dedicate a full-time individual to manage the integration process; third, implement any necessary restructuring sooner rather than later; and fourth, integrate not only the business operations but also the corporate cultures.

This book is packed with the best strategies formulated to effect and sustain a successful acquisition. There are usually winners and losers in this game, but some smart acquirers have also achieved a "win-win" situation for the conqueror and the conquered.

Whatever the case, make this subject personal. Don't be caught in a situation where you are the loser. Begin reading this book. *(dantemv@I-next.net)*

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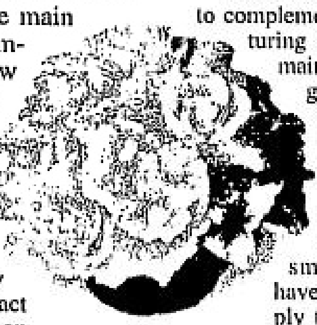
Couple sells the sweet smells of success

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

THE HOUSE at 9390 Calantas St., San Antonio Village, Makati City is quite modest by anyone's standards but almost everyone in the candle and soap making business knows it well. This is because Fragrant World has grown over the years to become the main place to go to for complete and cheap raw materials for the twin trades.



FILIPINO creativity is seen in this rose bouquet.

Fragrant World was put up five years ago by the husband and wife team of Elena and Tommy Co. It actually started out as a contract manufacturing operation for colognes and fragrances. Elena is a pharmacist by profession and has been asked on occasion to formulate fragrances for top clients.

"We were doing it for some time until February last year when people started to ask us to supply other things for them. We first offered them the whole range of essential oils. From there, we went the whole range for the candle and soap making business," Elena tells the INQUIRER.

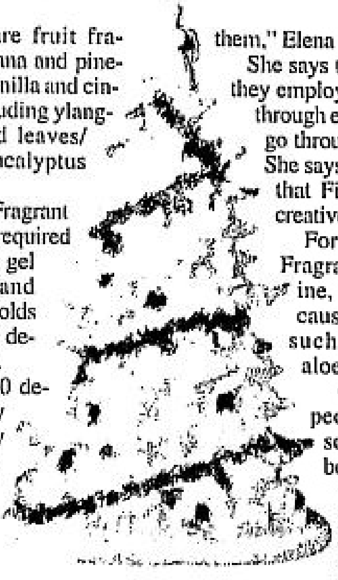
What started out as a side business to complement the contract manufacturing operations has become a mainstay due to the continuing growth in the demand for soap and candles for giveaways and gift items.

"We have a lot of hobbyists who come here and buy raw materials. We also cater to small entrepreneurs who have eventually grown to supply the candles to supermarkets like Shoemart and Landmark," she explains.

Fragrant World currently sells over 100 fragrances and essential oils. There are fruit fragrances like melon, banana and pineapple; food scents like vanilla and cinnamon; floral scents including ylang-ylang and jasmine; and leaves/grass scents such as eucalyptus and citronella.

For candle makers, Fragrant World offers the various required waxes such as paraffin, gel and bees wax, dyes, and wicks. It also sells resin molds including Christmas tree designs, angels and flowers.

"We have around 100 designs right now and we try to add new ones every week so we can keep up with the changing tastes. We are proud to say that only our raw materials are imported. The molds we do ourselves because we are creative people. We have about 10 molders and we are happy to provide livelihood for them," Elena explains.



AN INTRICATE wax Christmas tree, one of the latest designs offered by Fragrant World.

She says that the silicon molders they employ learned the trade only through experience. They did not go through any formal lessons. She says this only goes to show that Filipinos are inherently creative.

For the soap makers, the Fragrant World sells glycerine, castor oil, citric acid, caustic soda, and extracts such as chamomile and aloe vera.

Contrary to what people say, candles and soaps are still popular because these are easy to make and are nice giveaways for any occasion. Many people say that there is no such thing as having too many candles.

Even big pharmaceutical companies have started using candles for their corporate giveaways.

"I think that the popularity will last for a few more years at least. There is demand because everyone likes a candle and homes look good with them. They can come in small ones for giveaways and the very big ones as household decorations," she explains.

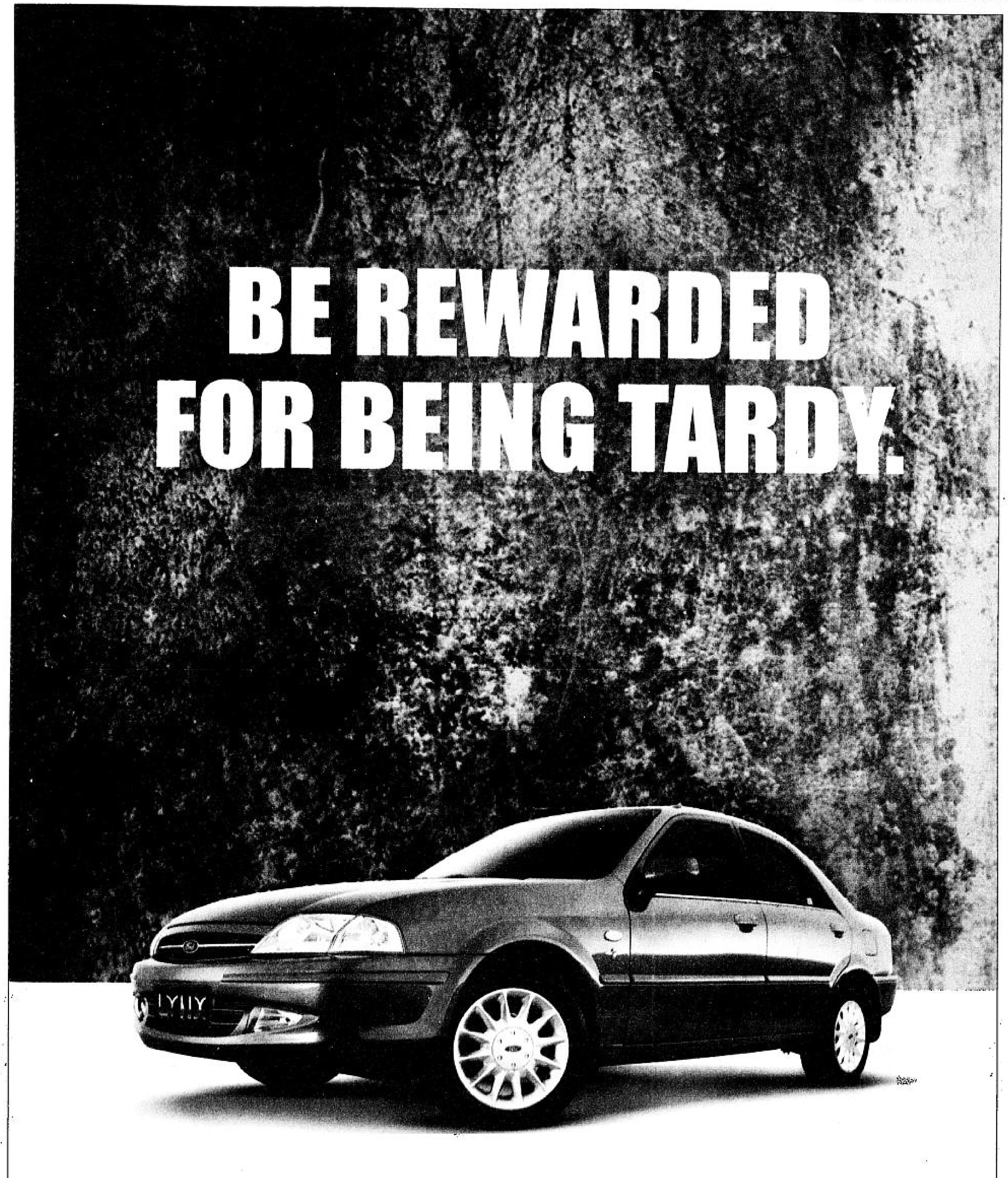
Organic soaps are also in vogue, with a few organic shops sprouting all over Metro Manila. She attributes this to the Filipino consumers' desire for anything organic or hand made. The quality is also much better than the soaps that are commercially available.

"We try to help increase the numbers of these hobbyists who are making soaps and candles by keeping our prices low. I believe that our prices are the same as in Divisoria but we are different because we are a one-stop shop," she says.

Fragrant World also prides itself on remaining competitive in the market by producing newer and better designs every week. She says this is the only way that the candle and soap making industries will continue to grow.

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

FRAGRANT World's Elena Co with her hundreds of molds for candles.



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GSI MT	P640,000	P145,000		P17,750	P14,500
GSI AT	P675,000	P155,000		P18,750	P15,250
Ghia MT	P730,000	P165,000		P19,500	P16,000
Ghia AT	P765,000	P175,000		P20,500	P16,750

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3370 Series of 2001.

Ford offers buy now, pay later program

Ford Group Philippines together with Ford Credit now offers an irresistible program dubbed *Ford Now, Pay Later.* Buyers of the Lynx, Ranger and Expedition can avail of the low downpayment scheme with payments beginning 90 days later. So you can enjoy the benefits of a Ford vehicle today.

Owning a Ford Lynx is made easy with downpayment as low as P145,000 for the GSi and P165,000 for the Ghia MT model. The 90-days-pay-later scheme is available in 36 and 48-month terms. Other financial schemes are also available while cash buyers await special incentives. This limited offer runs from October 5 to November 15, 2001 only.

Full Tank of Fuel

Customers of all Ford vehicles will also receive their units with a full tank of gasoline, compliments of the delivering Ford Dealer. Ranger buyers can also enjoy a free bedliner while Lynx GSi buyers get free keyless entry with alarm and trunk release system.

Prices

Effective October, 2001 prices of the Lynx are P640,000 for the GSi with manual transmission and P675,000 for the Lynx GSi automatic. The luxurious Lynx Ghia with manual transmission is priced at P730,000 and P765,000 for the Ghia automatic.

The pick-up leader in performance and safety, the 2002 Ford Ranger, is now priced at P626,000 for the 2.5XL, P738,000 for the 2.9 XLT 4x2, P805,000 for the Trekker and P980,000 for the XLT 4x4. The best-selling Ford Expedition on the other hand is currently priced at P1.69 million.

Visit any of Ford's 11 dealerships nationwide for details on our latest offerings. They are: Ford Alabang, Ford Balintawak, Ford Edsa, Ford Libis, Ford Makati, Ford Quezon Avenue, and in the provinces, Ford Cabanatuan, Ford Bacolod, Ford Cebu, Ford Davao and Ford Pampanga.

ADVT.

Hello and farewell at the Shangri-la Plaza

IT WAS an affair of hellos and goodbyes when Shangri-la Plaza recently threw a cocktail party for its new chair and president Tom Zita Jr. and former vice chair and president Fernando Gaspar.

Tom takes over the leadership of the mall while Nando moves on to other pursuits.

GM Lala Fojas together with her management team, senior vice president for operations Jolyon Tiglao, and VP for finance Mary Ann Dizon, warmly welcomed everyone.

In attendance were the mall's tenants, members of the board of directors and strategic partners from the cultural and diplomatic communities.

Present were business tycoon P.L. Lim, Benjamin Ramos of National Panasonic, Vic Munoz Sr., of Body Shop, Butch and Connie Bonoan of Better than Ice Cream, Andrew and Sally Viaje-Yates of WT Project Services, Jun Lagman and Cynthia Bautista of Brioni, Joey Estrera and Ed Buenconsejo of True Value and James Cu-Unjieng of Hugo Boss.

Also present were John Bautista of Bosch, Tito and Marivic Ako of Nielsen's, architect Bong Recio of Recio and Casas, Fred Milner and Leonor Rivera of Bondeal, Precy Mathay and Bessie Cruz of La Mirabella, Sheila Ramos of Tokyo Tokyo, businessman Tony Garcia and Michelle Yasay of Mango.

Retail partners present include Yoye Tanseco of Figaro, Jose Javellosa of Kuryente, Sabrina Uy of Gingersnaps, Angeline de Guzman of Balloons, Danny Marshall of Powerdance, Mert Besa of Besa Shoes, Gerard and Lydia Sison of Rosary Theater and Vida Estrella and Michael Gonzales of Rustan's Department Store.

From the diplomatic row came Nikolay and Tatiana Svetkov of the Russian Federation, Roi and Rachel Dvir of the Israel Embassy and Maurits ter Kuile of the Royal Netherlands Embassy.

In his brief message, Zita says he looks forward to the opportunity of overseeing the operations of the mall and the moves to bring to the public a reinvigorated Shangri-la Plaza.

Gaspar, on the other hand, bade farewell with a bit of sadness but at the same time happy that he leaves the mall in very able hands.

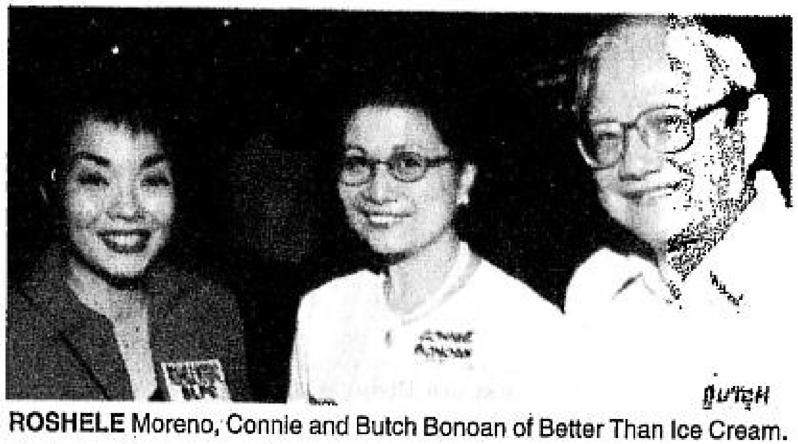
TOM ZITA Jr. and his wife Katherine, Paloma Vilidaurrazaga and Jolyon Tiglao

ED Buenconsejo and Joey Estrera of True Vlaue with Tyrone Victa

GUESTS from the diplomatic row Maurits ter Kuile, Rachel and Roi Dvir and Nikolay Svetkov

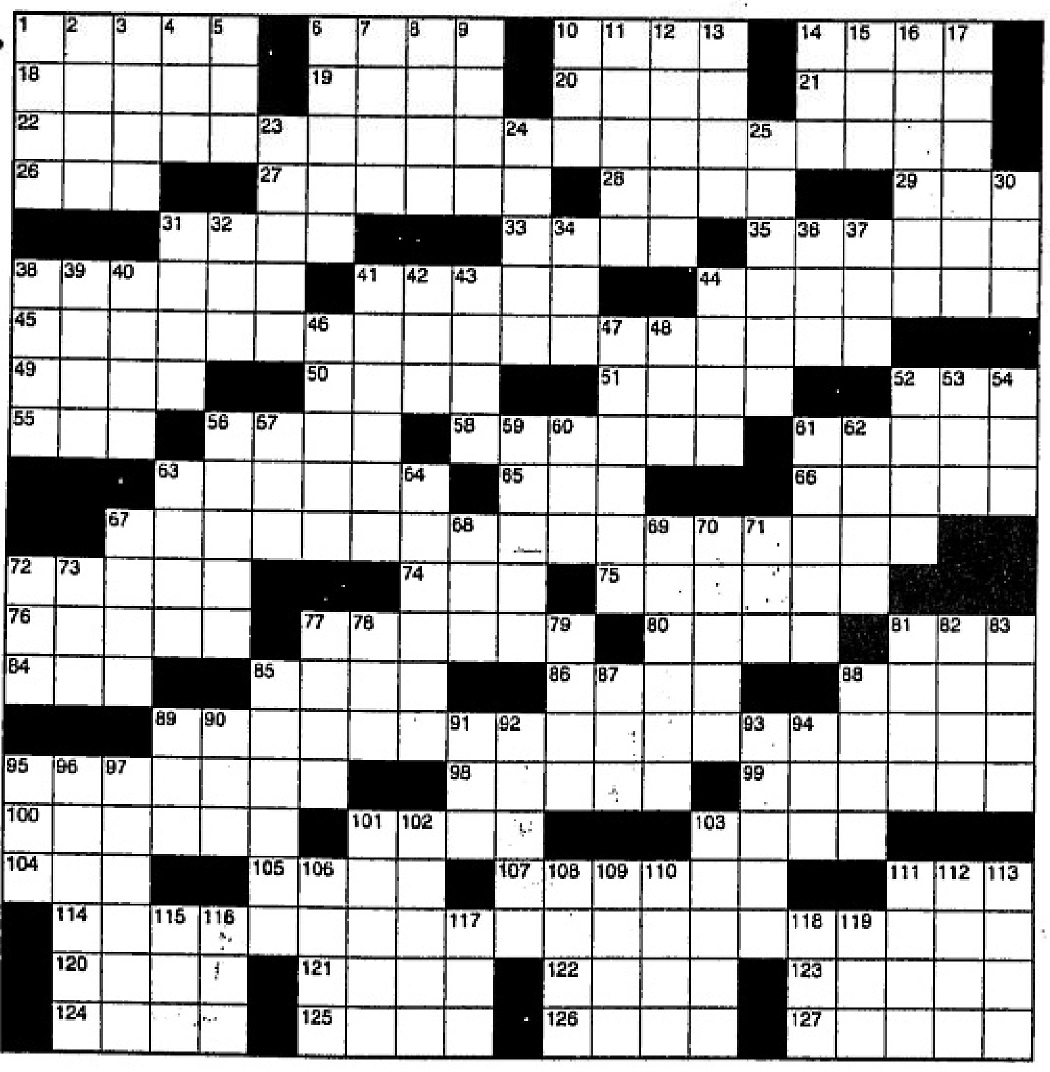
TOM Zita Jr. with Bong Recio of Recio & Casas, outgoing president Fernando Gaspar and GM Lala Fojas

PRECY Mathay and Bessie Cruz of La Mirabella and Fernando Gaspar


ROSHELE Moreno, Connie and Butch Bonoan of Better Than Ice Cream.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

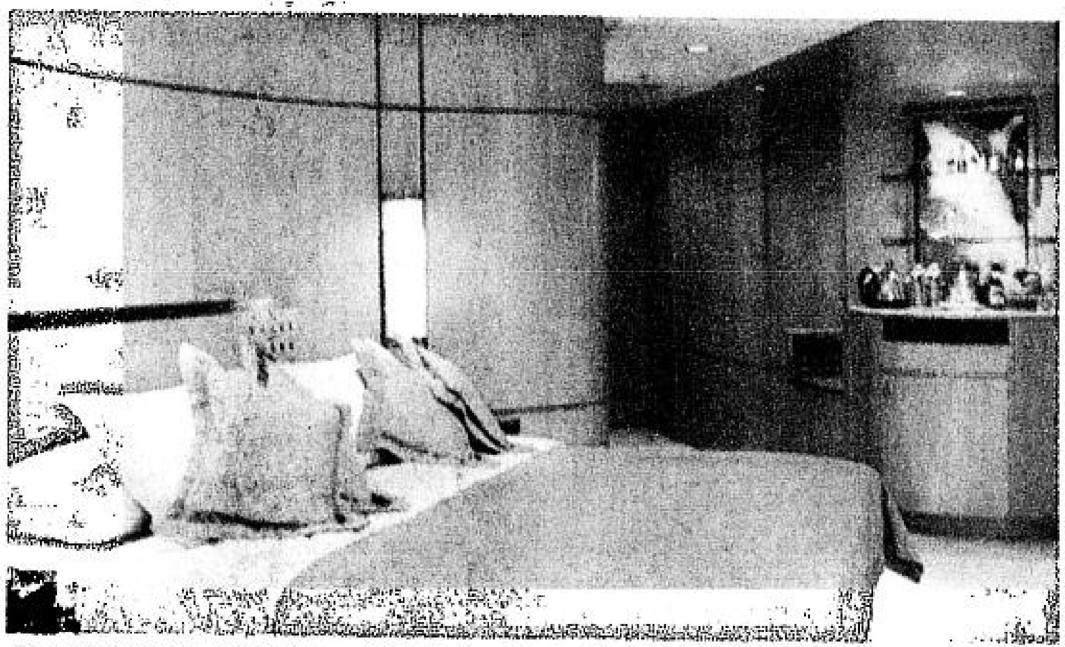
September Stats



ACROSS
1 Thread bearer
6 About
10 Madras music
14 Desire deified
18 Villechaize of "Fantasy Island"
19 Astonish
20 Hurler Hershiser
21 New York city
22 Event of Sept. 17, 1787
26 LAX letters
27 Neapolitan tenor
28 Any time now
29 Fond du —, Wis.
31 Injury aftermath
33 Big bird
35 What havens offer
38 Horn
41 Break off
44 Dressed down
45 Event of Sept. 2, 1666
49 Tart
50 Melville novel
51 Brad of "Thelma & Louise"
52 New Deal agcy.
55 Sleep stage
56 Mirror image?
58 Loud
61 Unimprovable
63 Thiss and thaat?
65 Decimal base
66 Count
67 Event of Sept. 16, 1620
72 Self-assurance
74 — polloi
75 TV's "The — of Rosie O'Neill"
76 A real card?
77 Muppet drummer
80 Just
81 Little rascal
84 Cow or sow
85 Push button's predecessor
86 "Ouch!"
88 "Zip- — -Doo-Dah"
89 Event of Sept. 26, 1898
95 Triumph
98 "— Breath You Take" ('83 smash)
99 Dukes and earls
100 Puzzle direction
101 Soprano Lucrezia
103 Nervous
104 Dundee denial
105 Economist Greenspan
107 Actress Pier
111 "Just — thought!"
114 Event of Sept. 3, 1783
120 "Once — a midnight dreary ..."
121 Singer Springfield
122 O'Hara homestead
123 Mercury, for one
124 Last word of the year?
125 Got by, with "out"
126 Heed
127 Pipe cleaner?

DOWN
1 Actress Elisabeth
2 Gnat or brat
3 Marineland performer
4 Ab — (from the start)
5 Actor Cariou
6 "Swinging on —" ('44 song)
7 Mix
8 '84 Peace Nobelist
9 Responsibility
10 Parisian potentate
11 Faced the day
12 Salami city
13 To boot
14 Unit of work
15 Perlman or Glass
16 Brunch offering
17 Reserved
23 Boa, but not cobra
24 Museum piece
25 Newspaper circular
30 Dancer Charisse
31 Go in snow
32 Corporate VIP
34 Coop critter
36 — deco
37 Scale notes
38 Out of range
39 Pleasant
40 In good shape
41 Recover consciousness
42 Rock producer Brian
43 "My Life as —" ('85 film)
44 Chaucer's Wife of —
46 Anesthetic type
47 Grand relative
48 Carol opener
52 Fount
53 Good buddy
54 — Khan
56 Chicken choice
57 Retriever's remark
59 Courtyards
60 Legal matter
61 Pasta peninsula
62 Emcee's site
63 Comfort
64 "Stay —" ('64 song)
67 Ditka or Douglas
68 Accounting abbr.
69 Tony or Oscar
70 Tendon
71 Mr. Mineo
72 Short sleepwear?
73 Excited exclamation
77 Well-ventilated
78 Be too encouraging?
79 Erato's instrument
81 Baal, e.g.
82 Marseilles mother
83 School supplies
85 — fin
87 Neighbor of Leb.
88 Actress Dalton
89 '64 Ronny & the Daytonas hit
90 Aurora, in Athens
91 "Cabaret" loc.
92 French health resort
93 Sari site
94 Eggy quaff
95 Pianist Cliburn
96 Aviation pioneer?
97 Weird
101 Tie-dye relative
102 In readiness
103 Quarterback John
106 Entice
108 West. alliance
109 Snatch
110 Bronte heroine
111 Cultural grp.
112 Pierre's st.
113 Key
115 Ludwig — Drake
116 "You're a Wonderful —" ('64 hit)
117 Approved
118 Realtor's abbr.
119 Sundown, to Shakespeare

ANSWER ON PAGE B7


THE NEWLY renovated De Luxe Suite is furnished with a work desk at the main reception area.

Makati deluxe hotel goes for a brighter, fresher look

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

BUSINESS may be slow due to the global economic recession but life continues to move at a fast pace at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, the flagship of the Shangri-La hotel chain in the Philippines.

The hotel is in the thick of renovations that it hopes to complete by July next year. Once done, it would give the 8-year-old hotel a fresh, new look in time for the expected rebound in the economy and the influx of business travelers.

"Once we are done, we hope to put the Philippines on the map," says Shangri-La general manager Richard Riley.

The Makati Shangri-La Hotel has already rolled out some of the new rooms, including some of the suites. The Inquirer shows here the first pictures of the new rooms.

Riley adds that plans are under way to refurbish the Horizon Club rooms frequented by executives and business travelers, the Club Lounge, the Cheval Blanc restaurant and the lobby.

He, however, says that the Shangri-La realizes that it is not enough to just improve on the design or the look of the hotel to reel customers in. He believes that the hotel industry is only 30 percent hardware (the hotel facilities) and 70 percent software (the people).

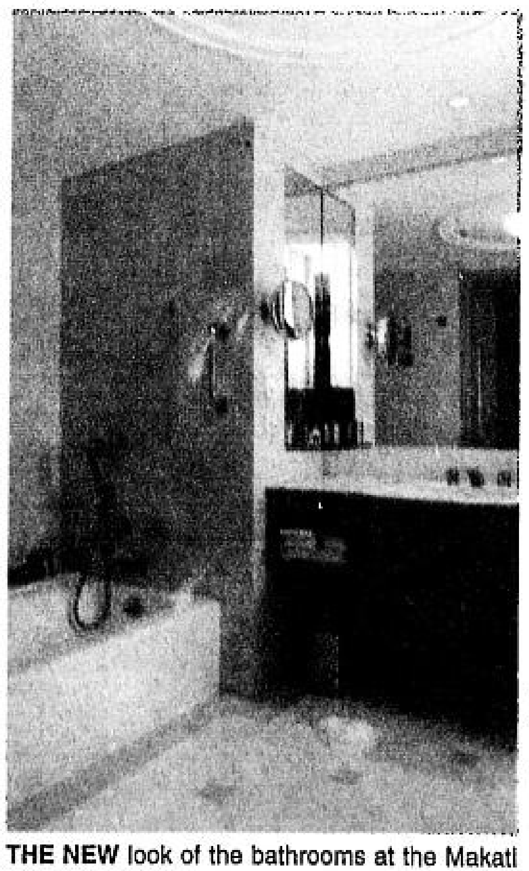
"When you ask somebody what they like about a hotel, they would not say that the lobby is nice or the staircase is nice. They would say they like it because of the service. This is why we give importance to the people," Riley says.

Riley says the Shangri-La's accent on the development of people and making guests feel right at home was one of the reasons why Singapore-based Business Traveller recently named it the Best Business Hotel in Manila.

Business Traveller is a publication that gives out awards for best business hotel in the region based on a survey on businessmen and executives that have traveled to a particular city at least three times.

The votes are confined to the top three executives in an institution such as the chief executive officer.

"We are proud of this award because it gives recognition to the people and their efforts to help our guests and provide efficient service," Riley says.


THE NEW look of the bathrooms at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Taking a shot at the youth events market

By Roberto C. Navarro

RADIO and TV program producers do it. So do the creative groups of marketing and advertising agencies. When targeting the youth market, they assemble a panel of young men and women to help in the process of giving the program, product, or event an appeal that matches the taste and preferences of the target audience.

They focus on devices such as the use of language, music visuals, and special effects.

"To be more real and truthful, projects and programs for the youth should be done by young people themselves. As much as possible, people working on an event, for example, should be of the same age as those attending it," says Andrew Garcia, 23, co-manager and founder of Progeny, an events and project publicity management outfit.

Rather than joining a panel of youth consultants for marketing, advertising, or media promotional efforts, Andrew and first cousin Angela Garcia, 21, decided to go several steps ahead: To plan, organize and manage youth events themselves.

"We actually delve into the creative side of directing events and setting them up. In particular, we want to focus on the younger segment. I wouldn't really classify them into GenX, GenY, or GenZ, or anything like that. To us, the younger segment includes those in high school and college with ages ranging from 15 to 24," says Andrew.

The acid test of these young entrepreneurs will be the launch of an urban music radio station before the end of the year.

"There's going to be an exhibition festival that would feature the urban culture. It's basically music—hip-hop, R&B, soul, and a little jazz," says Angela. "We're enthusiastic about this project because we've always followed this kind of urban culture. And the festival itself is something that has never been done before in Metro Manila."

What drives two young people to shy away from the usual corporate job—like working in a bank—and set up their own company? Aside from the usual independence beat or being one's own boss, Andrew believes that it really stems from enthusiasm.

"Nothing really beats work that you enjoy. And since it's something that I would really like to work on, it just makes it easier for me to work harder and put more of my time and energy into it," he explains.

To Angela, it's the influence of her dad Dennis Garcia, award-winning songwriter, copywriter and now creative head of ad agency FCB Worldwide.

"Most of my friends have graduated already and most of them are working. My dad is a good example to me and I'm determined to work it up the way he did," she says.

Who's the boss in a two-person company like Progeny? It's 50-50, half-and-half say both. They generally start off with a few meetings and discussing matters that may be of concern to the both of them.

In general, each one makes a guideline or checklist of ideas and concerns, and they kind of merge these into ideas that both of them think would work.

The forthcoming launch festival for the urban radio station is definitely an event that the two are very interested in. "So it isn't hard at all to come to any agreements at anything because we know exactly what we both wanted from the beginning," notes Andrew.

Andrew has some ideas on how to promote the festival. There's going to be a lot of people involved in the production side of it, mostly experts sourced from the outside. Andrew will try his hand on publicity.

"We will work with the print media and the Internet media. There are several publications online that cater to the segment we are targeting, the ones who are in touch with youth events via the Internet," he says.

The cousins agree that it pays to belong to a large family that is into writing, art, and music, when running a business that is into events planning and publicity.

The two gets support and suggestions on the side. But they make decisions independently and choose the kinds of people they would interact with when planning and executing an event.

"We're starting to branch out and look for more clients already," says Andrew. "I'm doing it on my own. I am tapping my own network of friends. We're using word of mouth and working closely with friends."

A piece of advice to would-be young entrepreneurs:

From Angela: "Make the most of life. There are no limits when you're young. Don't be afraid to take risks. Your weapons out there are enthusiasm, confidence and determination to succeed."

From Andrew: "Go for it while you're still young. Put a lot of effort into it. Don't be afraid to fail. Sometimes you may not succeed but you learn something from the whole experience." *For questions, e-mail at agarcia@infor.com.ph*

ANTONIO is now busy building a consultancy business

Bright boy . . .

(From page B1)

He kept the position for 10 years, until he left in January last year.

Landco started as a real estate consultant firm and its first major project was the Tutuban Center in Divisoria.

Landco

The concept was to create a mall to house the raw materials and knick-knacks that Divisoria is known for. The come-on was to sell the products at the same price but with the convenience of being inside a mall.

The project proved successful and Landco slowly gained a reputation as a good consultant.

Net income which was largely based on "brain assets" doubled nearly every year—P1 million, P4 million, P8 million . . .

Eventually they dabbled into real estate development.

"It's a natural development," says Antonio of their move.

They developed Peninsula de Punta Fuego in Nasugbu, Batangas, where a capital of P10 million was able to finance the P1-billion project because of pre-selling.

The timing was right because it was the height of the real estate boom in the country, making Landco's life easy.

Canyon Woods, the very elegant residential resort in Laurel, Batangas, was also started at a price tag of P10 million but the final price was over P1 billion.

"Those were the good times," Antonio says, looking back.

Boom to bust

Landco's track record attracted big business' eyes and soon attracted investors. In 1994, the Metro Pacific Corp., bought into Landco which was then 60-percent owned by Burgos and 40-percent owned by Antonio.

With its alliance with Metro Pacific, Landco entered into joint venture agreements and acquired properties in key cities in the country. The regional diversification strategy brought modern property development technology outside Metro Manila.

By the end of 1996, the company had accumulated some 2,000 hectares of land via joint venture agreements or acquisitions with strategic partners.

The entry of Metro Pacific diluted Antonio's holdings to 16 percent and later on to only 6 percent, when the real estate boom became a bust, and Metro Pacific had to assume the huge debts of Landco and convert these into equity.

From earning only P8 million in 1993, Landco's earnings shot up to P30 million the following year, then P71 million in 1995 and it reached its peak of P250 million in 1996.

It maintained its 1996 earnings in 1997, but in 1998 the company just broke even.

Asian crisis

The Asian Crisis had hit by this time. All of a sudden, debts ballooned and sales dropped.

"In 1999, I could see the handwriting on the wall," Antonio says, adding that there was a change in the vision he and Burgos saw for the firm.

Antonio wanted to revive the consultancy group, which was put in the back burner in July 1999. He went back to teaching the following year.

Today he is part of the core faculty of AIM's Center for Entrepreneurs, having been appointed as one of the "gurus."

But his consultancy days are not over. The members of the consultancy group of Landco put up a new firm called Land-Excel Consulting.

The group struggled for months and eventually they called on him to help them.

"They asked if I can be their spiritual leader," he says. Now he is Land-Excel's chief executive.

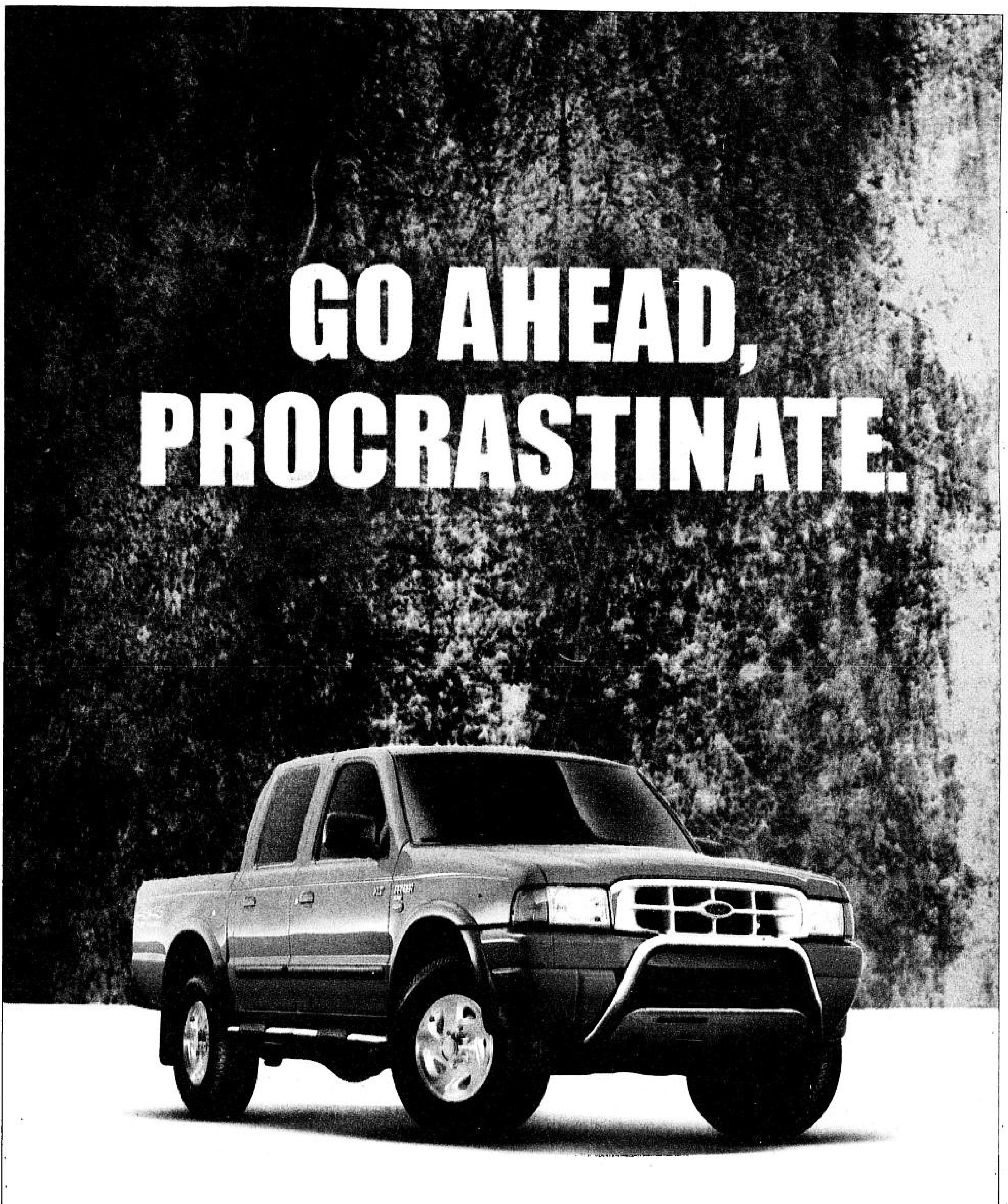
Midas touch

He has not lost his touch as the firm's list of clients is growing and includes some of the biggest landowners in the country. He is also helping banks turn around their bad loans in real estate ventures.

Slowly they are also going into real estate development although on a small scale, and they get the landowners as the partners.

But Antonio says the vision for Land-Excel is clear.

"I know already what to avoid. The people I work with will no longer be dilutable. The firm will be talent based, not resource based."



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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Iata calls for Naia fuel farm modernization

IN MODERN airports like those in Hong Kong and Singapore, aviation fuel is stored and loaded into the airplanes using state-of-the-art facilities. At the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia), however, the antiquated system implemented in the '60s still being used.

Moreover, in other airports, airlines can choose which jet fuel supplier to buy from. Not so at the Naia.

These are some of the concerns raised by the International Air Transport Association (Iata) to the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) as it called for the modernization of the Naia fuel farm system.

In a series of letters to MIAA, Iata Fuel Trade adviser Jerry Batik appealed for the designation of a concessionaire to construct and operate a modern fuel farm at the Naia. He said a modern fuel farm with competitive jet fuel prices would enable the airlines to operate more efficiently and better cater to the price-sensitive tourism market.

Batik said the modernization of the present Naia fuel farm would result in lower into-plane service cost, which in turn will benefit passengers through lower airfares. It will also mean increased volumes of fuel sold and increased revenues for the Naia.

The Iata made the appeal to make the Naia more competitive. The Naia's 40-year-old fuel farm requires tank trucks to drive beside the plane to load aviation fuel. The system uses more than 300 truck movements per day. This method entails the risk of spillage and poses a serious operational hazard. Already there have been incidents where a fuel truck hit a domestic aircraft at Terminal 2, causing undue delays in departure times.

A master plan review of the Naia fuel farm by the Airport de Paris shows that the present location of the fuel farm near Terminal 2 presents high risks of fire and explosion that is not acceptable by Iata members. The fuel farm also does not have enough storage capacity for the volume of air traffic and does not meet the development plans of the airport.

GORDON VISITS THE HERITAGE CENTER

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon visited the Heritage Center recently. He came on behalf of the Philippine National Red Cross to present the project lineup of PNRC for possible partnership with Unilever. Gordon is currently the vice chairperson of PNRC, with Tingting Cojuangco at the helm. Unilever has been supportive of PNRC's projects for several years and has been working with the institution in furthering the company's safety and health objectives. Shown is Gordon with (from left) Lydia Bonalos (fund generation manager, PNRC), Chito Macapagal (general manager, corporate development, Unilever), Howard Belton (chair and CEO, Unilever), Tessie Usapdin (communications manager, PNRC) and Lydia Leysa (national field representative, PNRC).

430th ARAW NG MAYNILA
AWARDS CEREMONIES
TAXPAYERS IN 2000
PROPERTY TAX

TOP TAXPAYER IN MANILA

As part of the recent week-long celebration of the 430th Araw ng Manila, the city government held a recognition ceremony in honor of the city's top 20 taxpayers for 2000. Unilever was given top honors in the business taxes category, while it was accorded recognition for being the 3rd highest taxpayer in the real property taxes category. Other honorees included Shoemart Inc., Jollibee Food Corp. and Manila Hotel. Unilever is proud to be a recipient of this award as it reflects the fulfillment of the company's code of business principles – conducting business with honesty and integrity. Shown is Jika Mendoza-Dalupan, (corporate relations and communications manager of Unilever) receiving the award from Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, while vice mayor Danny Lacuna looks on. Mendoza-Dalupan also delivered the acceptance speech on behalf of the honorees in the business taxes category.

MAIL BOXES ETC
UPS
June 2001
Mandarin Oriental Man

THE PERFECT PACKAGE

United Parcel Service (UPS) Philippines and Mailcom International celebrated the merger of UPS and Mail Boxes Etc. (MBE) in simple ceremonies at the Mandarin Hotel Makati. Mailcom owns the master franchise of MBE in the Philippines. Shown is Matthew Ong, UPS Philippines' managing director, shaking hands with Nestor G. Trinidad, Mailcom vice president. Also shown are Cristina G. Trinidad (left) Mailcom president and Matthew McGee (right), vice president for marketing of UPS Asia Pacific region.

GLOBE'S VICTORIOUS DIGITAL FACE-OFF FINALS

Globe Handyphone, the country's leading digital cellular service provider, once again showed its appreciation for its subscribers by staging the biggest, on-the-spot encounter of the year, the Digital Face-Off final challenge. The most skillful GlobeIcons, GlobeTones and Globe TextCards creators, together with the strongest X-Men fighters via InfoText and WAP, won an astonishing array of prizes. Lucky audiences, meanwhile, received numerous Globe Handyphone valuable prizes instantly in several raffle draws during the event. And keeping everyone up on their toes was a succession of some of the country's hottest bands and entertainment artists. Shown (from left) are Nicky Santiago, Globe AVP for customer usage and value-added services; Justine Camacho, Globe product manager for value-added services; celebrity hosts Tone Wijangco and Pia Guanio; Mike Jujo of Globe Telecom and Alexis Ragos, Globe product manager for value-added services.

UCPB taps Asia Online for Net banking

UCPB, a leading provider of financial products and services in the Philippines, recently launched its retail Internet banking product, UCPB Connect, which can be accessed via wired or wireless channels. The wireless service, developed by Asia Online, aims to offer its customers high accessibility through mobile banking. Through wireless communication, customer can now safely transact balance inquiries, fund transfers, statement and checkbook requests, report and replace lost ATM cards, pay bills and more – like setting e-mail, fax or SMS notification for future transfers – giving value banking services anytime, anywhere.

Asia Online appointed Finesse Alliance as subcontractor for the project and made use of its CL@RITY channel notification server infrastructure with high availability backup system, the perfect mobile banking solution. Included in the project are software, customization, installation and support services.

Asia Online provides integrated Internet business solutions to more than 60,000 medium to large-sized organizations throughout the Asia-Pacific region. These solutions include virtual private networks, leased lines, broadband and dial-up access, system integration, e-commerce, e-business development and hosting, and co-location in any of its 10 data centers.

The Asia Online group has offices in Mainland China, Hong Kong (SAR), the Philippines, Malaysia, India, Australia and New Zealand.

IIA-P annual convention set

THE INSTITUTE of Internal Auditors-Philippines will hold its annual convention on Oct. 24, 25 and 26 at Fontana Leisure Parks in Clark Field, Pampanga. This year's convention theme is ''Internal .Auditors: vital to control, essential to governance.''

Speakers who are known experts in their respective fields will be coming to impart their knowledge and experience on topics that are not only intellectually stimulating but also relevant to auditors in the 21st century.

This is the time of the year when Internal Auditors, as well as risk management practitioners and certain financial control professionals across the country bond together to learn new things, develop or increase their level of expertise and expand their network in a relaxing and soothing environment away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Registration is open. Sign up now by calling the IIA-P Secretariat at 844-5661 local 302, 325 or 352. Look for Eden, Allen or Annalou. Visit www.theiiapconvention.ph-24.com

BITS & Clips

Nampap 66th national convention

THE NATIONAL Master Plumbers Association of the Philippines Inc. (Nampap) is set to stage its annual national convention on Nov. 16 to 17 at the Manila Midtown Hotel. Coinciding with its 66th anniversary, the convention, dubbed "Globalization: A Challenge To Plumbing Profession", is expected to convene the Metro Manila Plumbing Contractors Association (MMPCA) and the Nampap Multi-Purpose Cooperative with thousands of plumbing practitioners, designers and contractors in the country for a two-day rare exhibit of state-of-the-art plumbing materials, tools and equipment. Also highlighting the event are product presentations and technical lectures of key resource speakers from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Technical Education Skills and Development Authority (Tesda) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI-BPS). Speakers will provide delegates with the latest in plumbing technology and continuing professional education to attune to the challenges of globalization. Culminating the convention proper is the election of national directors and officers of Nampap for 2002. For further details and inquiries, call the Nampap secretariat office at 713-7844 or 713-3049.

PDA 3rd scientific seminar

THE PHILIPPINE Dental Association-Parañaque Dental Chapter will hold its third scientific seminar on Oct. 7 at Skyline Asian Center at Filinvest Corporate Center in Alabang from 1 to 5 p.m. The seminar is entitled "The Magical Aspect of Aesthetics."

UP Law Aptitude exam in November

AHEAD Tutorial and Review Center will hold review classes for the upcoming Law Aptitude Exam of UP which is scheduled on Nov. 25. The review is also applicable for the entrance exams of other law schools such as Ateneo, San Beda and UST. The review includes two mock exams, a series of lectures on the different subject areas, review materials and valuable test taking tips to equip the examinee with the confidence to hurdle the exam. For inquiries, Ahead can be reached at any of its offices in Ortigas, Greenhills or at the head office at 309 Katipunan, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, with telephone numbers 426-0034 to 36 or 0917-7958483.

ASIAN CRUISE

Philips Lighting vice president and general manager Mario Hernandez (right) hands over a mock-up passport to Henry Ford Monfiero of Market Leaders Distributors after he won a Victoria Cruise trip to Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand via the 'Philips Wild Wild Quest' dealers promo. The promo gives Philips dealers a chance to win two round trip tickets to some of the world's key tourist destinations as well as lots of exciting prizes. Also shown is Philips Lighting national sales manager Victor Solomon.

WOMEN OF STRENGTH, AND BEAUTY

The finalists for the Secret 'Woman of Strength' (from left) were Katarina Velaso, Lorraine Cervantes, Vanessa Teves, Jackie Benavidez, Jennifer Sibug, Happee Sy, Tara Macken, Margauxh Nalus and Gigi Gonzales. The search was sponsored by P&G Secret Platinum, the new antiperspirant and deodorant especially made for women that provides superior dryness and odor protection plus skin care in one. Secret Platinum, the latest in P&G's consumer product line, was formulated to meet women's needs today.

PBA
2001
Season

AIR PHILIPPINES-PBA SIGNING

Air Philippines and the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) recently inked a memorandum of agreement for major sponsorship of the provincial legs of the PBA games. Air Philippines will provide air transportation for PBA teams this third conference. Present during the contract signing were (seated, from left) Milagros Limgenco, SVP for marketing (Air Philippines), Renauld Barrios, PBA acting commissioner, Erlinda Santiago, VP for marketing (Air Philippines). Standing (from left) were Edith Collado of Petco, Fritz Tan, advertising manager (Air Philippines) and Ronaldo O. Poe, PBA marketing manager.

PHILIPS SPONSORS A1 IN MANILA

Philips Consumer Electronics brings today's hottest boy band to Manila. a1, the cool boy band from the United Kingdom, is set to perform live in Manila tonight at the Araneta Coliseum. Ben Adams, Christian Ingebrigsten, Mark Read and Paul Marazzi will be performing their No. 1 hits and more for the Philippine crowd. The Manila concert is part of a1's A List Tour to promote their album, also called A-List. And as part of the company's sponsorship of the concert tour, Philips will be having an awesome raffle that offers the best seats at this exciting event. Philips gives you the chance to see the a1 boys in person with its 'Get on the A List with Philips Audio' raffle promo. Every purchase of Philips' Rush and Expanium MP3 players, CD-RCR Dynamax portable CD players, Woox VCD+MP3 Mini Hi-fi or VCD+MP3 Micro Hi-fi entitles you to a raffle ticket for a chance to win great prizes.

Ilonggos show business savvy amid crisis

BY HAZEL P. VILLA
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Seven years ago, a group of enterprising Ilonggos "brought" Iloilo and neighboring island-province Guimaras to the attention of the Manileños with "Dinagyang sa Makati" at the Hotel Nikko.

The organizers led by Valerie Maravilla, founding chair of the Ilonggo Producers Association (IPA), were overwhelmed with the public's response to the cultural presentations and exhibits that they decided to turn the "Dinagyang sa Makati" into a yearly trade festival that became known as the "Ilonggo Festival."

What started as a simple exercise in exposing Iloilo and Guimaras to the general public has now turned into a product, trades and investments exposition that covers all of Western Visayas composed of Iloilo, Capiz, Antique, Guimaras, Negros Occidental and Aklan.

This year's Ilonggo Festival at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall on Oct. 10-14 now goes by the name of "Expo 6"—a tribute to the entrepreneurial spirit of businessmen in the region's six provinces and to the intensive preparations for what promises to be an "exportable" exhibit.

"The greatest challenge in holding the Ilonggo Festival is how to make it different every year, otherwise it would just be a bland exhibit," said Herminio Maravilla, husband of Valerie and former chair of the Iloilo Business Club that headed last year's festival.

Herminio said the region's entrepreneurs are particularly excited about showing off their products this year because Expo 6 is also the culminating activity of a second product development and management-training project that has been instrumental in the success of last year's Ilonggo Festival.

These products are eventually aimed at preparing the local entrepreneurs for the export market, said Della Jarantilla, IPA vice president and chair of the association's education committee that oversaw the training.

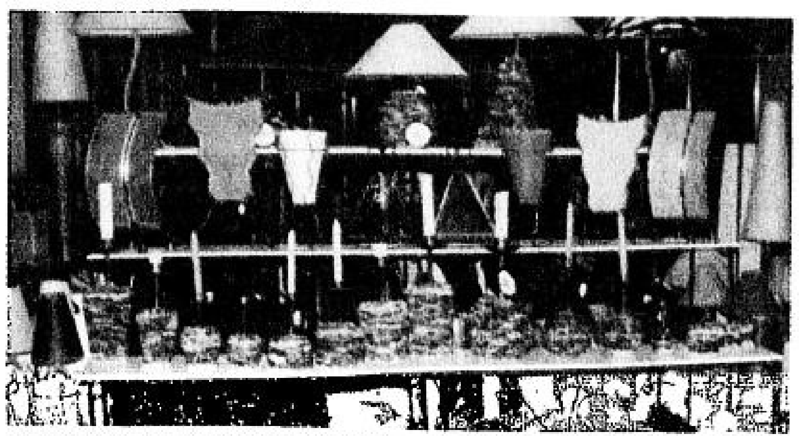
The consultations and two-day seminars were held in July, August and September 2001, tackling such topics as "Global Design Trends 2001-2002," "Effective Marketing Strategies in Today's Business Environment," "Business Process Improvement," "Productivity in the Workplace (5S Approach)," "Good Manufacturing Practices," and "Effective Visual Merchandising."

Jarantilla said the training was funded by the Canadian International Development Agency through the Private Enterprise Accelerated Resources and Linkages (Cida-PEARL), the same agency that managed last year's IPA project on training Ilonggo entrepreneurs on improving and marketing their products as well as developing their managerial skills.

Herminio said the Design Center of the Philippines was particularly helpful in making Ilonggo products "sellable" by updating manufacturers on design trends, packaging and product development.

Participants to the Cida-PEARL training were even taught how to design booths, negotiate with buyers and do proper costing and pricing for their products.

"The fact that between 200 to 300 product designs were presented to the designers during the one-on-one consultation was an unexpected favorable response. More new product designs will be displayed during Expo 6," wrote Jarantilla in her progress report to the Cida-PEARL.


ILONGGO entrepreneurs will show new products classified under foods, gifts, toys, housewares and furniture.

NEXT stop for the businesses based in the Panay and Negros provinces is the export market.
PHOTOS BY HAZEL VILLA

Ilonggo entrepreneurs will show new products classified under foods, gifts, toys, housewares and furniture.

Valerie said another product innovation at the Expo 6 include 14 guitars made of bamboo, developed by Ilonggo musician Agustin Lagon.

"This year, the food sector has developed new products and new packaging styles resulting from competition with imported products from other Asian countries," Jarantilla said.

At Expo 6, each province will be showing improvements in the products they are known for, said Jessie Genoveza, manager of IPA's Trade Center located at the DTI Building in downtown Iloilo City.

Genoveza said that Iloilo for instance, which aims to be known as the "Bamboo Capital of the Philippines," is going to showcase export quality bamboo furniture, some of which have won awards.

Guimaras will exhibit different food products based on its famous mangoes. Antique will bring in their muscovado sugar and semi-precious gemstones. Capiz's seafoods and cut flowers will blend with Aklan's woven raffia and sinamay.

Negros Occidental's entrepreneurs, who are joining for the first time, are mum about their exhibits and are expected to provide curiosity value to the exposition.

Genoveza said more than 100 participants have registered and will be spread out in an area of 1,600 square meters housing 87 booths at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

Some booths will focus on each province's tourism destinations and in the course of the five-day expo, a road show on the investment and trade opportunities in the region will be presented.

Visitors to the Expo 6 will also be treated to the real Lapaz Batchoy as well as other delicacies found only in the Islands of Panay and Negros.

"They (visitors) will certainly be exposed to different provincial flavors," said Herminio.

The Maravilla couple expected a good turnout in Expo 6, based on the feedback received from participants to the Ilonggo Festival, who had reported increasing sales after the past shows.

The proceeds from the Ilonggo Festival, now Expo 6, will be returned directly to the participants.

The Ilonggo Festival Foundation and its eight organizers from the government and private sectors do not receive any financial returns from the expo, said Herminio.

The foundation and festival organizers, however, provide loans to those who want to join but are cash-strapped. These loans are paid after the festival.

"We get money to run the foundation's affairs through fund-raising activities. Thus, this is largely a philanthropic activity," said Herminio.

The Ilonggo Festival was a major project of the IPA that was formerly known as the Panay and Guimaras Producers Association founded by Valerie in 1993.

The IPA then put up the Ilonggo Festival Foundation in 1998 to ensure the continuity of the Ilonggo Festival.

The foundation was headed by the Maravilla couple until this year when its reins were handed over to Bernard Langurayan who is also currently IPA chair.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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Keep things pretty and small to give good service to clients

BY MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO

GING de los Reyes of the Flower Farm had to constantly refer to an assistant to quote figures.

She confesses she simply has no business sense. But what she lacks in numbers, she makes up for by having a lot of enthusiasm and putting in a lot of hard work. She says she learned a lot from her father Gene, and now she continues to learn more business trends from sons, Tony, who is with a foreign bank; Toby, who runs a car and accessories shop; and Andy, who is an IT consultant.

Her three boys want her to expand and open more shops.

But she reasons she does not want to do it anymore, as opening more shops might make what she does too much of a job and less of a passion.

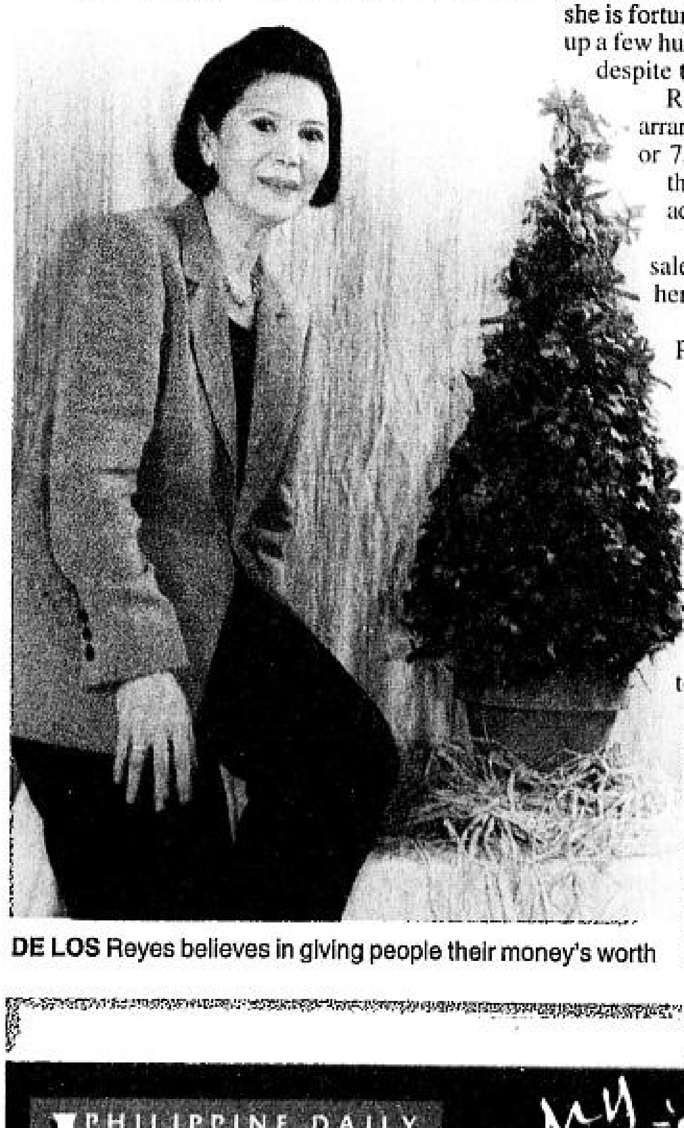
"What is more important is I am hands-on and service-oriented. I am still able to mix with the customers," she explains.

But even if she does not have much money sense, De los Reyes is very aware that the economic crunch has affected sales.

Companies, for example, have cut down on the floral arrangements they order every Monday. They are now comfortable to leave their tables bear.

Even brides and grooms and debutantes have reduced their budgets for flowers.

FLOWER Farm's Ging de los Reyes shuns rapid expansion


DE LOS Reyes believes in giving people their money's worth

She says flowers for weddings last year averaged some P350,000 to P500,000. This year, although the numbers are steady, the budgets have gone down to P85,000 to P300,000.

The Flower Farm has four shops today—two in Makati, Ortigas, Alabang. De los Reyes says she is fortunate because they still manage to rack up a few hundred thousands in sales every month despite the downturn.

Retail sales or those who order on an arrangement basis still account for the bulk or 75 percent of the sales. Wholesale or those bought by florists and decorators account for 25 percent of sales.

To make up for the slack in flower sales, De los Reyes has diversified into herbs and spices in pretty pots.

She says these sell for less than P150, and sales have been good. She plans to have more of these types for the Holiday season.

De los Reyes has come a long way from the lady who used to cry when her flowers had to be sold. Now she knows it's a necessity to sell the beautiful creations that she designs herself.

The Flower Farm started as a hobby as she likes decorating her house with flowers. Her hobby grew to become a bustling business.

Her flowers are mostly grown in Tagaytay and are tended by about 37 employees. Another 15 work in the retail outlets.

De los Reyes says she picked up the hobby from her dad who used to pull weeds around the flowers that surrounded their hacienda in Silay, Negros. Since then, flowers have always been a part of her life.

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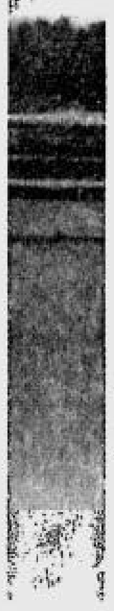
Marvelous Majayjay

BEAUTIFUL Mount Banahaw



BY PABLO A. TROZADO

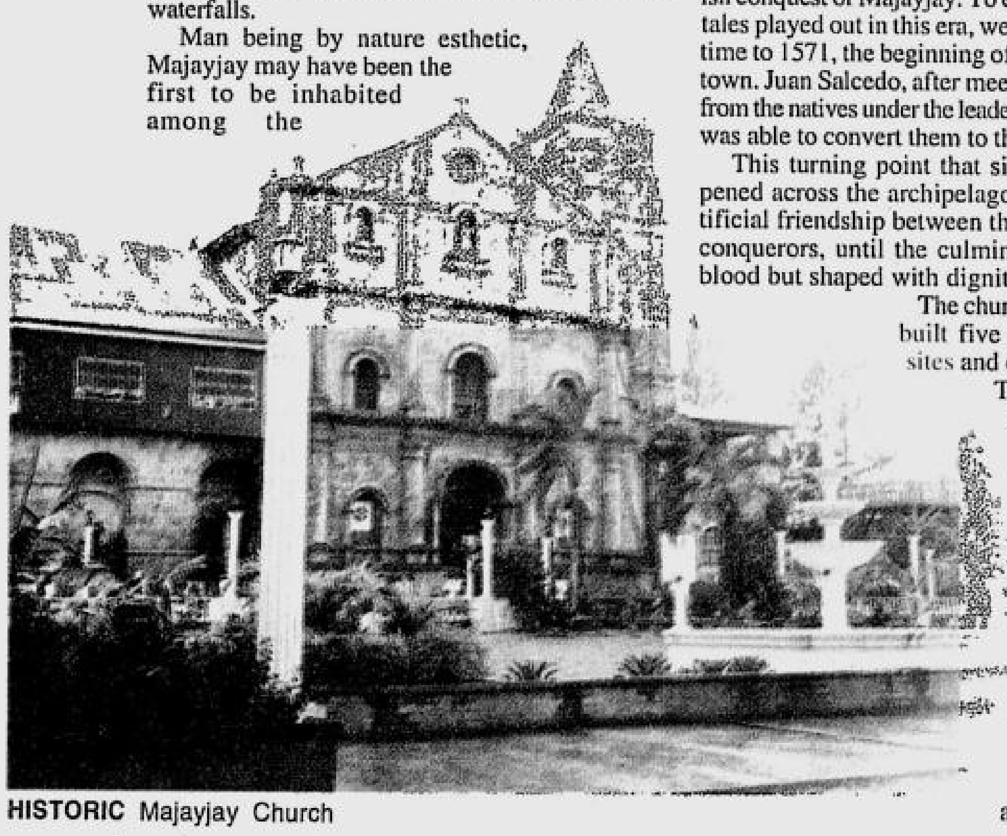
BEFORE IT was founded in 1571, Majayjay in Laguna was a forest at the foot of Mount Banahaw. There are still occasional sightings of deer and wild pigs at its boundaries—proof that wildlife thrived in the past because of natural amenities and sustenance like a cool climate, abundant water and fruits.

Imagine how beautiful it must have been then, with the sun shining on rich flora to the singing of birds and the sound of waterfalls. Thankfully, Majayjay retains some facets of that beauty.

Banahaw, which stands about 8,000 feet above sea level, serves as a scenic backdrop of the town to the south. On a clear day it is bluish, and when the morning sun shines upon its eastern part, it resembles a master's painting on the wall. A brief burst of torrential rain will shroud the entire mountain in fog, which will gradually disappear to again give way to the beautiful view, but this time with an added splendor—a pair of silvery waterfalls.

It is said that once upon a time this mountain was an active but benign volcano which, after a single eruption, fell into a deep slumber lasting up to this day. Therefore, the water springs found mostly on its upper slopes could have been caused by this eruption. The water springs sought paths that became rivulets, which, in turn, created the waterfalls.

Man being by nature esthetic, Majayjay may have been the first to be inhabited among the southeastern towns of Laguna. The early Filipinos, nomads carrying bows and arrows as they roamed in search of better habitation, must have stumbled upon an attractive cut that led them up to a clearing about 1,000 feet above sea level, which provided a panoramic view of the surroundings.



HISTORIC Majayjay Church

And then followed another period of sociological evolution that reached a crucial stage when the Spanish conquerors came to the unnamed settlement.

All the fruits now growing in Majayjay, including the famous lanzones, are indigenous to the area. The folk tale goes that a long time ago, the lanzones was so toxic that a stubborn girl named Ines died instantly after she proceeded to eat it despite her mother's stern warning, "*Lason* (poison), Ines!" (Hence the name.) But one sunny morning after this incident, a beautiful woman dressed in pure white appeared from nowhere and, after picking off a piece of the fruit, pricked it with her right thumbnail. Then she vanished, prompting the curious people to check the fruit. They found it very sweet and no longer poisonous. The people presumed that the mysterious woman was the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Actually, the sweetest lanzones come only from Majayjay. The harvest season is from mid-August until early October.

Spanish conquest

Three significant dates highlighted the Spanish conquest of Majayjay. To explore the dramatic tales played out in this era, we must travel back in time to 1571, the beginning of Christianity in this town. Juan Salcedo, after meeting with resistance from the natives under the leadership of Gat Yantok, was able to convert them to the faith.

This turning point that simultaneously happened across the archipelago brought about artificial friendship between the Filipinos and the conquerors, until the culmination stained with blood but shaped with dignity.

The church of Majayjay was built five times on different sites and of different stories. The first construction was carried out on the west bank of the May-it river but it was later destroyed by fire. The others either met the same fate or simply crumbled.

The one that stands today was made from adobe slabs and prime lumber and took the natives 19 years to build, with their offspring carrying on until 1730. The forced labor, when even women and children were compelled to bring construction materials to the site, resulted in illnesses and death by accidents.

So huge and tall, the church is considered the biggest in the Philippines. Now as in the past 271 years, its wooden components—the beams, the trusses, the floors—indicate no possibility of decay. And the adobe slabs? To the end of time.

Above the smaller bells hangs the huge main tower bell, whose undetermined weight, elders say, can crumble the entire church tower if it happens to break off the wooden beam to which it is tied with tempered tree roots. The peal of this bell is so powerful as to reach a radius of three kilometers. The story goes that long ago, the ringing of the bell caused a pregnant woman evacuee sleeping downstairs of the tower to go into labor pains and untimely childbirth.

How this bell was transported to the tower can only draw theories, the most probable of which was that the natives may have done it inch by inch, attended by mishaps that injured and killed some of them.

Visitors will notice that some of the letters embossed on the surface of the bell are missing. It is said that the letters were removed and kept as amulets by those who believe that possessing a letter from the bell that corresponds to the beginning letter of the holder's first name will make him invulnerable to physical injury.

Anyone who may wish to see this church bell should first consult with the tower man who rings all the bells at scheduled times in a day.

The patron saint of Majayjay church is San Gregorio Papa Magno.

In 1760, a chapel called "Ermita" was constructed about 300 meters south of the church by Spanish friars to enshrine the image of Nuestra Señora de la Porteria, which was brought over by Spanish missionaries in 1759.

Still displayed today, the 242-year-old image is believed to have protected the edifice against storms and earthquakes as well as manmade destruction during the past wars. Told and retold across generations is the story about an underground passage linking the Ermita to the church.

In 1849, a little over a decade before national hero Dr. Jose P. Rizal was born, another landmark of the Spanish administration of Majayjay was constructed. The stone bridge over the Olla river was also a product of forced labor. It is said that the natives who came late for work were whipped by the Spanish guards, and that those who fell ill while working were not allowed to rest and were even kicked on the buttocks whenever they paused to muster strength. (Hence the name "Tulay ng Pigue" or Bridge of Buttocks.)

In later years, the story was told of star-crossed lovers—a Filipino girl and the son of the *gobernadorcillo*. Eventually, the boy was sent back to Spain and never came back, driving his despairing sweetheart to commit suicide by jumping off the bridge, which had served as their trysting place. It is said that the incidents that took place on this bridge sparked a pocket rebellion against the Spanish authorities.

Freedom

The era that followed saw the dawn of Filipino freedom from the bondage under Spain. And Majayjay continued to be part of history.

The old folk remember Rizal's frequent visits to Majayjay. It was also in this town that Emilio Jacinto, known as the brain of the Katipunan, died of malaria on April 16, 1899, while directing a campaign against the Spaniards as commander-in-chief of all revolutionary forces in Laguna.

The Filipino troops that engaged the enemy in a fierce battle in Magdalena, a nearby town, were young recruits from Majayjay under Jacinto's direct command. Accounts of this battle that echoed through generations defined the bravery of these boys who were trapped like rats but fought valiantly and died as men.

But the lure of Majayjay does not end with the narrative legacy of the past.

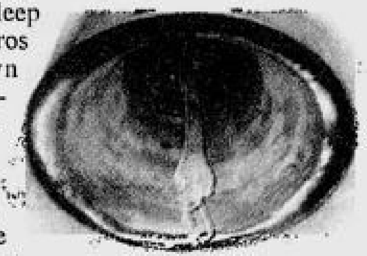
Topping the agenda of Mayor Tino Rodillas and Vice Mayor Avelino "Binoy" Meristela, both young first-termers who enjoy the full support of the municipal council, is the development of local tourism.

Still half-developed yet already drawing foreign and local tourists is the Taytay Waterfalls Resort, which can be found in a barangay bearing the same name. The place gives the visitor the rare chance to breathe mountain air and enjoy a sojourn far removed from the clatter of city life.

On the way to the site from the *poblacion* by way of an access road leading to Barangay Taytay, which owns the resort, visitors will be thrilled by the constant view of Mount Banahaw. The road ends about 100 meters from the site, so that the visitors will have to walk the stretch, or take a ride by horse to the waterfalls. The idea behind the unpaved trail is the preservation of the area's pristine state.

There are no cottages in the resort, and those visitors who intend to spend a night or two there will have to bring their own tents and cooking utensils. But anyone who wishes to have a better place to sleep can go to the Pontiveros Resort in the town proper. It comes complete with conveniences, including a swimming pool, cottages and a restaurant.

And then there is the Dalitiwan River Resort, whose main attraction is a river emanating from pure mountain springs. It is ideal for those who love to bask in the sun while lying on boulders lashed by the river waters.



POWERFUL bell

Getting there

It takes only about one-and-a-half hours by car to reach Majayjay from Manila. The ideal time to leave is daybreak, to be able to catch up with how a day starts in Laguna as the sun rises. The trip covers a distance stretching between both ends of the province because San Pedro is the mouth of Laguna from Manila and Majayjay is the tip.

All roads leading to Majayjay are paved in concrete, and as the visitor passes from town to town, Mount Banahaw looms closer especially across the vast horizon along the highway entering the town of Pila. From Sta. Cruz, the visitor can stop briefly at Magdalena, the site of the decisive battle between the Spanish soldiers and Jacinto's young Katipuneros.

The first to greet the visitor entering Majayjay is another historic landmark—the Atilo river bridge built in 1668. At the entrance of Majayjay town center are dark caves bearing mystical stories. A few meters downward is the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, situated on the east bank of the rippling Olla river.

At the town proper, anyone can be a tourist guide. The people of Majayjay are nothing if not polite and welcoming.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Promo extension

PUNTA Baluarte in Batangas has extended its "Punta-stic Advantage" to Oct. 15.

The promo offers the special rate of P1,400 net for two persons on weekdays and P1,750 on weekends. The rate includes overnight accommodation in a standard room, breakfast for two persons, use of certain sports facilities, service charge and applicable government tax.

For group reservations, facilities for corporate meetings including audio-visual equipment are available. The resort's lush landscape makes it ideal for outdoor group dynamics and team-building activities. Groups numbering from 20 to 350 are welcome.

For reservations, visit the Punta Baluarte Makati office at the 5th floor of ENZO Bldg., or call 899-4551 or 899-4546.

Dos Palmas redux

ONE of Palawan's premier island resorts, Dos Palmas, will host the swimsuit competition of the Miss Earth international beauty pageant on Oct. 20.

More than 45 of the world's most beautiful women are joining the pageant organized by Carousel Productions. But more than a beauty showcase, the pageant is aimed at raising public awareness of the problems affecting the environment and the need to conserve the world's dwindling resources.

Oyster festival

ISLAND Cove Resort and Leisure Park in Cavite is holding its first ever "Oyster Fest" on Oct. 15-Nov. 15—the best time to enjoy the province's well-known sea bounty.

For inquiries, call the resort at (046) 434-0210 or its Makati sales office at (02) 810-3740. The toll-free numbers are 810-3718/32/64 and 810-5638. Or visit www.islandcovephil.com or e-mail islacove:info.com.ph.

12th Travel Mart

THE 12th Philippine Travel Mart (PTM) was launched Sept. 26 at the Century Park Sheraton during the general membership meeting of the Philippine Tour Operators Association, the event's organizer.

Philtoa is composed of tour operators and allied members advocating responsible tourism. A non-stock, nonprofit organization, its membership includes travel agencies, airlines, hotels, resorts, transport companies, handicraft stores and other tourism-oriented establishments and associations.

The 12th PTM will be held on Nov. 23-25 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall. The first PTM was organized through the efforts of the Department of Tourism. For successive years, it was held through the initiative of the government until Philtoa, together with the Philippine Travel Mart Foundation, started managing the event in 1994.

Lakeshore dreams

BY ROMAN ROMEO G. NAGPALA

NATIONAL hero Jose P. Rizal's birthplace

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon's call in the recent Tourism Week celebration was for all Filipinos to help boost the economy by each taking part in the effort to bring visitors to the country ("*Magtulungan para sa bayan, isang turista lang ang kailangan*").

It went well with the theme of last year's celebration, which was "Pride of Place"—a call to know, love and be proud of our own.

As one born at the shoreline of historic Laguna de Bay some decades ago, I am proud of Laguna and my hometown of Calamba, which is now a city. Who among us will not take pride in the very place where national hero Dr. Jose P. Rizal was born? And Calamba is doubly proud today because the first woman governor of Laguna, Teresita S. Lazaro, hails from there.

The governor describes Laguna as "a blessed province where doing business is a pleasure." She envisions its development as a major tourist destination in the country through the help of the Department of Tourism and Laguna Lake Development Authority and the support of various local business groups.

Laguna de Bay played a very important role in Philippine history. It is through this lake via the Pasig River from Manila that the Spanish *conquistadores* landed in Laguna and converted its natives to Christianity.

Even earlier, Chinese merchants used the lake as their trading route to the shoreline villages. The coastal residents plied the waterways to reach various barangays surrounding the lake and to visit the prosperous Maynilad via the Pasig. The "Bapor Tabo" also ferried Rizal from Calamba to Biñan.

Today the Wonder Island Resort is offering a breakfast cruise aboard the present-day "Bapor Tabo," a houseboat that serves as a floating restaurant and venue for meetings and seminars. Throughout the cruise, participants are regaled by picturesque views, particularly the majestic beauty of Mount Makiling.

Its historical significance has inspired Lazaro to develop Laguna Lake as a water-highway that will not only help solve the perennial traffic problems in the metropolis and the suburbs but also put Laguna in the list of tourist destinations.

She foresees modern ferryboats plying the lake loaded with executives and businessmen as well as local and foreign tourists—a factor that, she is convinced, will boost local industries (handicraft and other trades allied with tourism), not to mention the 18 industrial parks in Laguna.

According to Lazaro's plan, lakeshore municipalities will put up piers as landing points for the ferryboats that can reach even inland towns via rivers like Pagsanjan. At bigger and more spacious landing sites will rise cafés, restaurants, and souvenir and curio shops. Fish ports, wharf facilities and boat service gas stations will also rise, paving the way for the communities' economic growth.

All these, says Lazaro, can be boosted by organizing weeklong festivals to mark, for example, Juan de Salcedo's expedition and his conquest of Cainta and Taytay in the province of Rizal or Juan Masolong's baptism in Bay, Laguna. The festivals may culminate in a fluvial parade to honor the towns' patron saints.

Lazaro notes that developing tourism in Laguna de Bay will in turn encourage the development of competitive water sports such as jet skiing and board sailing.

She says the earnings to be generated from the issuance of permits and clearances can be used for the revival of the lake and the resolution of problems including water pollution, siltation, dwindling fish production, shoreline squatting and petty lawlessness.

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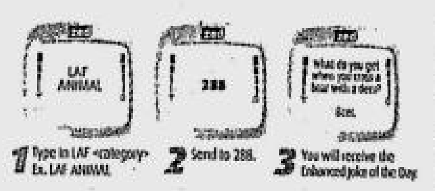

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The Personnel Administrative Assistant
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Office of the President
Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission

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Official Receipts #123416 and 123429 unissued.

Provisional Receipt Booklet with serial nos. 23101-23150 contained unissued receipts with serial nos. 23135 to 23150, while the booklet with serial nos. 23301-23350 contained unissued receipts with serial nos. 23308 to 23350.

Acknowledge Receipt booklet with serial nos. 11401 - 11450 contained unissued receipts with serial nos. 11434 to 36, 11442 to 11450.

Accordingly, the public is hereby warned that said unissued receipts are no longer valid.

(PDI--Oct. 7, 2001)

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- Experience of Organic Analytical Chemistry and Analysis of contaminated land samples

ORGANICS (CHEMIST)

- As above but supervisory experience not required
- Types of Analysis carried out:
  - Volatile Organics by Headspace GCMS; Semivolatile organics by solvent extraction / GC-ECD
  - PCB'S by solvent extraction / GC-ECD; TPH (totals, aromatic/aliphatic splits, carbon banding) by solvent extraction / GC-FID
  - Phenols by HPLC with electro chemical detection
- Instrumentation used: Headspace GCMS (Varian and Thermoquest); GCMS (HP); GC-FID (HP); GC-ECD (HP) HPLC (Dionex); Accelerated solvent extraction (Dionex)

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- Chemistry Degree / Computer Literate
- Candidates should have several years experience of Inorganic Analytical Chemistry both Instrumental and Traditional Wet Chemistry
- Supervisory Experience. In addition to a supervisory dimension, the job also entails project management and client liaison hence, good communication skills and ability to work in a demanding environment are important.
- Experience of Analysis of contaminated land samples

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- As above but supervisory experience not required
- Types of Analysis carried out:
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  - Cyanides and monohydric phenols by distillation/Flow injection analysis (Automated colorimetry)
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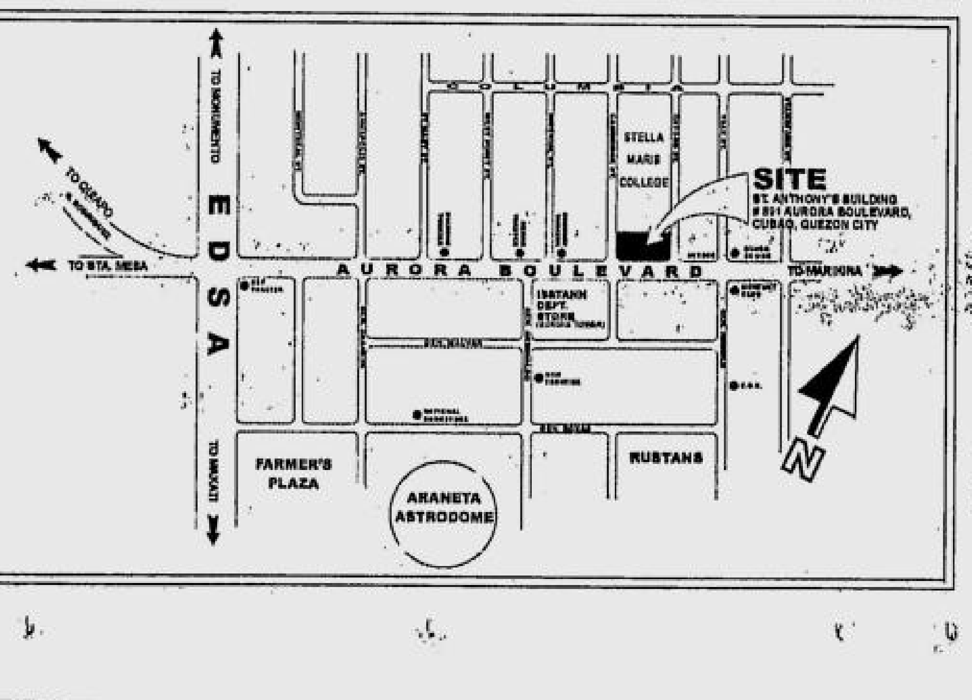

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UNRETURNED ORDER AND PAYMENT FORM BOOKLETS (OPF) AS OF AUGUST 31,2001

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OPF SERIAL NOS.

39566-39570
39631-39635
39771-39775
39796-39800
39801-39805
39821-39825
39856-39860
39861-39865
39911-39915
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(PDI - Oct. 7, 2001)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby informed that a Warrant of Arrest has been issued by Hon. Judge Franchito N. Diamante of Branch 151, Regional Trial Court of Pasig City against **LEONISA O. MENDOZA, a.k.a. LEONISA ORENSE** or **LEONISA CABAHUG**, for the case of Qualified Theft with Criminal Case No. 120800. A reward of P25,000.00 for anyone who can provide any information leading to her whereabouts will be given. The following are the numbers you can contact: **6871387/ 09178307433/09193909297/09176183218.**

(PDI – Oct. 7, 2001)

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(Sgd.) **AVP ANTONETTE L. FERNANDEZ**
Acquired Assets Disposal Committee

(PDI - Oct. 7, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

RULES ON THE LIQUOR BAN IN CONNECTION WITH THE NOVEMBER 26, 2001 ELECTIONS, IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (ARMM)
X---X

PRESENT:

BENIPAYO, Alfredo L.,	Chairman
TANCANGCO, Luzviminda G.,	Commissioner
JAVIER, Rufino S.B.,	Commissioner
LANTION, Ralph C.,	Commissioner
SADAIN, Mehol K.,	Commissioner
BORRA, Rusurreccion Z.,	Commissioner
TUASON, Florentino Jr. A.,	Commissioner

PROMULGATED: 4 October 2001

RESOLUTION NO. 4600

WHEREAS, the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines provides:

SEC. 261. ***Prohibited Acts.*** - The following shall be guilty of an election offense:

xxx xxx xxx

"(dd) xxx (1) Any person who sells, furnishes, offers, buys, serves or takes intoxicating liquor xxx xxx xxx on the day before the election or on election day. Provided, That hotels and other establishments duly certified by the Department of Tourism as tourist-oriented and habitually in the business of catering to foreign tourist may be exempted for justifiable reasons upon prior authority of the Commission. Provided, That foreign tourist taking intoxicating liquor in said authorized hotels or establishments are exempted from the provisions of this sub-paragraph."

WHEREAS, violation of said prohibited acts shall be punishable with imprisonment of not less than one year but not more than six years and shall not be subject to probation, and in addition, the guilty party shall suffer disqualification to hold public office and deprivation of the right of suffrage;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, and other election laws, has RESOLVED to promulgate as it hereby promulgates, as follows:

SEC. 1. ***Prohibited Acts.*** - It shall be unlawful for any person, including owners and managers of hotels and establishments to sell, furnish, offer, buy, serve or take intoxicating liquor in the ARMM.

SEC. 2. ***Prohibition Period.*** - The liquor ban shall be in force and effect on the day before the election (November 25, 2001) and on election day (November 26, 2001).

SEC. 3. ***Exemption.*** - Hotels and other establishments located in the ARMM duly certified by the Department of Tourism as tourist-oriented and habitually in the business of catering to foreign tourists may be exempted from the liquor ban, PROVIDED they secure prior written authority upon showing that there are justifiable reasons therefor from the action officers enumerated in Sec. 4 hereof.

Only foreign tourists taking intoxicating liquor in said authorized hotels or establishments are exempted from the prohibition.

SEC. 4. ***Where to apply for and secure exemption.*** - Applications for exemption together with supporting documents, shall be filed with, and duly acted upon by the following: Provincial Election Supervisors with respect to establishments located in the municipalities within their respective provinces, and City Election Officers with respect to those located within their respective cities/districts.

SEC. 5. ***Conditions for the grant of exemptions.*** - Exemption may be granted only upon compliance and submission of the following:

a) The request/petition/application for exemption must be under oath and must contain a statement that the hotel/establishment operators/owners have not been convicted for an election offense;

b) Certification by the Department of Tourism that: 1] the requesting hotel or establishment is tourist-oriented and is habitually engaged in the business of catering to foreign tourists; 2] said hotel or establishment is currently licensed to do business; and 3] that the individual or establishment has paid the required taxes and/or fees imposed by the government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities.

SEC. 6. ***Revocation of exemption.*** - The exemption granted may be revoked or set aside by the Commission upon petition of any interested party on showing, among others, that the reason upon which the exemption was made does not exist or is not justifiable, or that the requesting party or applicant has committed misrepresentation in the application, or introduced or submitted falsified documents.

SEC. 7. ***Who shall implement.*** - The Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), National Bureau of Investigation, Regional Election Directors of Regions 9 and 12, Assistant Regional Election Directors of said Regions, Provincial Election Supervisors, Elections Officers and the Comelec Election Laws Enforcement Team (ELET) if any, which will be fielded by the Commission in specific areas, shall implement this resolution.

SEC. 8. ***Effectivity.*** - This resolution shall take effect on the seventh day following its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

SEC. 9. ***Dissemination.*** - The Education and Information Department shall cause the immediate publication of this resolution for two consecutive days in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation and shall furnish copies thereof to the Department of Tourism, Association of Hotels and Restaurants, Regional Election Directors, Provincial Election Supervisors, Election Officers, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, the National Bureau of Investigation, and the accredited Citizens Arm of the Commission.

SO ORDERED.

ALFREDO L. BENIPAYO
Chairman

LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

RALPH C. LANTION
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI–Oct. 6 & 7, 2001)

Investing in mutual funds: building for your future

MONEY is precious. As they say, it doesn't grow on trees. But you can make it grow, even in this time of economic hardship. How? Simple. By investing wisely.

There are indeed many ways to invest in today's markets, but none is growing faster in popularity than mutual funds. Although this investment instrument has only been recently introduced in the country, mutual funds are prevalent in European, North American and even some Asian countries. But what is a mutual fund anyway? A mutual fund is essentially an investment company that pools money from its shareholders and invests it in a diversified portfolio of securities.

Recently launched in the Philippine market, the Sun Life Prosperity Funds, the first family of funds to be introduced under the Sun Life Financial Group, offers some tips on how to invest your money wisely.

Know your investment goals. It is important to choose investments that match your goals. Ask yourself the following: Why do you want to invest? How much risk are you willing to take? How long is your investment time horizon? Your answers to these questions will help determine the suitable investment for you.

Be realistic. Set definite and achievable savings and investment targets. Don't invest money you don't have. It does not help to set goals that are too ambitious or require a level of savings beyond your present financial state. Decide what you can realistically set aside for investment and work from there.

Protect yourself against inflation. Ten thousand pesos can buy a lot more in the '70s compared to what it can buy today. Inflation has eroded our buying power and it will continue to do so unless we invest wisely. The first step is to include inflation protection in your investment goals.

Diversify. Like the famous saying, "Don't put your eggs in one basket," in investing you shouldn't put all your money in one place, stock or business. Spreading your investment across different assets can help trim your risks. The prices of different assets do not always go in the same direction and even if they do the amount of change varies.

Practice peso cost averaging. Make investment purchases on a regular basis so as to average your cost over time. For instance, you decide to invest P5,000 in mutual funds every month. On the first month, the price of the mutual fund share is P5, so you buy 1,000 shares. If the price of the share doubles to P10 the following month, you buy another 500 shares. Your average cost is therefore P7.50 per share. Since we don't have perfect foresight, peso cost averaging allows us to improve our share cost in the face of fluctuating share price.

Buy low, sell high. This is easier said than done. There is a common misconception that you should buy stocks when the market is good, and sell when it is bad. Without an investment plan, you would easily follow the crowd – selling when prices are already falling and buying when prices are already rising. To avoid this mistake, take time out to create your own investment plan.

Invest for the long term. The value of securities tends to rise and fall over the short term over time. Your ability to withstand volatility, especially on the downside, will generally result in greater returns over time. A long investment time horizon will give you the flexibility to include investments that may provide high returns but will require taking additional risks.

Balance risk and reward. Every investment has a certain degree of risk, and its return is proportionate to the level of risk of the investment: the lower the risk, the lower the return; the higher the risk, the higher the return. Investors need to understand the levels of risk or volatility associated with their investments.

Choose a fund manager that offers you different investment options. Every individual has his/her own investment needs. Investment needs will also change over time. What works for a 30-year-old may not work for a 50-year-old. If you are looking for a financial partner to help you implement your investment plan, turn to the Sun Life Prosperity Funds. Sun Life offers three mutual funds that will provide flexibility in meeting different investment goals.

So, whether you're saving for retirement, your children's education or you simply want to improve the quality of life, the Sun Life Prosperity Funds can help address your specific need. It is never too early to start planning for your future financial goals.

A CONCERT
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BOMBO RADYO APOLOGIZES

The Sept. 22 Grand Draw of Starvaganza Na... Bombonanza Pa Year VII, the biggest and longest running promo in Philippine radio history, held at the Cuneta Astrodome was an experience that no one could have ever imagined. Not even a PBA finals could have come close to matching the huge crowd that trooped to the Cuneta to watch the Grand Draw which literally featured mountains of entries reaching a record-setting 22 million nationwide. Rogelio M. Florete, president and CEO of Bombo Radyo Philippines, expressed his deepest apologies to all those who came but were not given entrance due to the limited space. Florete however promised a much larger venue next year like the Araneta Coliseum or the Quirino Grandstand. The management and staff of the Network extend its heartfelt thanks to all its listeners and especially its sponsors for a very successful promo. Shown are thousands of people lining up to watch the Grand Draw of Starvaganza Na... Bombonanza Pa Year VII last Sept. 22 at the Cuneta Astrodome.

DOCTOR WARNS OF INDOOR POLLUTANTS

3M Philippines Inc. recently sponsored a lecture on respiratory health by Dr. Noemie Salta-Ramos, dermatologist with special interest in environmental medicine at the 3M office. Ramos talked about respiratory and skin diseases that indoor pollutants can cause and aggravate, singling out atopic dermatitis (or skin asthma), bronchial asthma, and allergic rhinitis. The use of a high-efficiency air filter such as Filtrete Air Filters by 3M to reduce and eliminate dust mites that cause these diseases was emphasized. Above, Ramos (center) is awarded a plaque of appreciation by 3M office and consumer marketing group division manager Crispina O. Amen (left) and Isopharma general manager Rolly Santos (right).

BARBIE AND THE PRINCESS WITH A KIND HEART

This year's 'Eat Bulaga' search for Little Miss Philippines grand prize title went to a princess with a kind heart. Little Miss Cleo Norma Medel's heart shown bright when asked what her wish would be for a 'fairy godmother' would be: she asked for food, clothing and care for the less fortunate street children. Her answer made her the unanimous choice to be this year's Little Miss Philippines, besting 14 other finalists. For good-hearted children like Cleo Norma, Richwell Trading Corp., the exclusive distributors of Barbie products, gave her a Barbie toy showcase as part of her winnings. Barbie encourages good little girls in their best behavior, that's why Barbie is the favorite doll of good little girls. Shown (from left) is Little Miss Philippines 2001 Cleo Norma Medel (center) and her court Jomagel Sicat, Sally Rose Padilla, Shannen Rodriguez, and Angel Fuster with her Barbie Showcase winning from Richwell Trading Corp.

Kodak Professional major sponsor of recent Graphic Expo 2001

KODAK Professional, the pioneer and leading innovator in film and digital imaging, led the different participating imaging and graphic companies in the recent successful staging of Graphic Expo 2001 at the Philippine Trade Training Center in Pasay City. Kodak Professional was major sponsor of the year's biggest graphic trade show.

Two experts brought in by Kodak Professional gave well-attended seminars. Chuck Gardner, the director of the Regional Printing Center of the US Embassy and a photography expert, conducted a 3-hour session on digital photography followed by Kelvin Tan, an executive from Kodak Malaysia who gave a seminar in large-format advertising, a fast-growing segment in the local graphic industry.

Kodak Professional also hosted daily mini-seminars at its booth. Jun Miranda, director of the Philippine Center for Creative Imaging, personally conducted sessions on the basics of scanning, digital photography and Adobe Photoshop.

Kodak Professional also showcased the company's cutting-edge technology, covering virtually every step of the workflow process – from image capture to output. On display were film scanners, digital cameras, CD recorders and large format inkjet printing solutions. "This end-to-end, integrated solution is what sets Kodak Professional apart," says Clifford Jison, KP's product and channel manager. Kodak gives the graphic professional the most complete set of tools when it comes to wide format inkjet printing – from the printer hardware and the RIP software, down to the matched inks and media – so you get superior quality and color-correct printouts every time.

Graphic Expo 2001 gathered together the different complementary workflow processes – from digital photography, creative design, digital imaging, print output and web publishing. The 4-day event saw the convergence of state-of-the-art technology providers, software vendors, graphic arts service providers and industry experts as well as showcasing the latest trends and innovations in the graphic industry.

CHAMPS POWERED BY CASTROL

Team Ghiasports-Castrol's Toti Alberto and Mark Goddard of Superbike and Formula 3 fame, respectively, gear up for the Asian Formula 3 Challenge using Castrol's high-performance lubricants. Castrol's team-up with champion racers has led to the development of the highest quality lubricants for Castrol, and countless race trophies for its sponsored racers.

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"Only your best is good enough
for your mission."
- General Atienza

In Loving Memory

On the 35th Death Anniversary of

GENERAL RIGOBERTO J. ATIENZA

Former Chief of Staff
Armed Forces of the Philippines
who died on October 8, 1966

His children **Zenaida** and **David Clymer**, **Eloisa** and **Victor Lim**, **Herminia Atienza-Ilano**, **Rosalinda** and **Balbino Hernando**, **Rolando Atienza**, and **Josefina Atienza-Salvaña**, grandchildren and great-grandchildren invite relatives and friends to remember him in their prayers and to join them tomorrow, Monday, October 8. 2001 in the offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at Camp Gen. Rigoberto J. Atienza, Libis, Quezon City at 3:00 p.m., after which the annual Gen. Rigoberto J. Atienza Memorial Awards Ceremonies will be held. Holy Mass will also be offered at graveside at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City at 8:00 a.m. and at military chapels throughout the country.

We invite you also to remember **EUGENIA SUAREZ ATIENZA** who died on June 22, 1995.

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God."
2 Cor. 4:14

"Rejoice in the Lord you who are just. Praise is fitting for the upright. Give thanks to Him with a harp and lire making melodies and chanting praises."
Psalm 33:1-2

Gilbert Tadiwan Dela Vega

Husband, Father, Brother and Friend. A man who selflessly dedicated his life to the happiness of all his loved ones.

Peacefully joined his Creator on Thursday, October 4, 2001 at the age of 54.

His loving wife and children **Angelina (Llaguno)**, **Geraldine**, **James Ian**, **Paz Jennifer**, **John Paul**, **Desiree**; grandson **Miguel** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Don Bosco Chapel, Makati City. Interment will be on Wednesday, October 10, 2001 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Don Bosco Chapel.

EDITA DADIA TOLENTINO

PRO ECLESIA PONTIFICE

September 20, 1927 - October 5, 2001

Peacefully passed away
into the loving arms of the Lord
yesterday at the age of 74.

Her husband Papal Knight Commander **Larry C. Tolentino**, their only daughter **Mary Anne**, her brother **Tomas** and **Gracia Dadia**, nephews, nieces and other relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains now lie in state at the Don Bosco Memorial Chapel, Pasay Road, Makati City.

Mass will be celebrated by His Excellency, Most. Rev. Antonio Franco, D.D., Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 7, 2001.

Interment will be held at the Heritage Park in Fort Bonifacio after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at Don Bosco Parish Church on Wednesday, October 10, 2001.

Just as the dawn was breaking in October 7 last year, our Daddy was called by God to join Him in His Kingdom of Eternal Peace. It has been a year since we last hugged, kissed, laughed, and cried with Daddy. So as

ANTONIO BENIN TORAL

Celebrates his first year with the Lord. We, his family, ask you to join us in praying for his eternal rest and happiness.

Although there are sad moments and times we just wished he was still here, we know he has moved on to continue his life-long journey with God.

And we rest with the reassuring thought that we may have buried his body, but not his spirit. We may have buried Daddy's hands, but not his works. We may have buried Tony's heart, but not his love.

All these remain in us - his family, friends and loved ones.

Again, please join us in prayer.

Loyola Memorial Park Parañaque
A safe haven for your departed loved ones.
Think of the future. Prepare today.
Avail of our promo for Family Estates and Memorial Courts :
15% down payment, 1 year to pay without interest
Please call Tina or Gilbert at Tel. No. 818-0785 818-2083 818-0689
812-5679 810-3594

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ANNABELLE LEE YUHICO

Born: Oct. 21, 1954
Died: Oct. 5, 2001

Her husband **BABES YUHICO**; loving children **Christopher**, **Joseph** and **Christine Ann**; parents, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Chapel, Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 9, 2001 at 8:30 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Card of Thanks

As we go through a period of deep sorrow
over the loss of our beloved

LUCIA COINCO CASTAÑEDA

CPA-Lawyer
December 13, 1947 -- September 14, 2001
we take solace from the constancy
of your love and friendship.
We are grateful to all of you who offered
Masses and prayers, sent flowers,
attended the wake and interment,
and condoled with us in other ways.

Justice Catalino R. Castañeda, Jr.
Children Clarence, Clark and Chere
Granddaughter Katrina

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
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AUREA QUIOQUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451, 522-2128, (0917) 434-8978
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Tel. 732-0300; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch. A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543, 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City. Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City,
Tels. (082) 227-1201, 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City
Tels. 740-2683, 781-3705; 781-3688, 413-8400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3805, (047) 811-1008; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City. Tel. 894-5932 to 34
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FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
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FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
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Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1378, 826-9682, (0915) 712-1220
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East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044
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Magallanes Village, Makati City. Tels. 852-8228, 852-7284
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Job opportunities for staff (Filipinos)

• Cash Department:	500 personnel
• Loan Department:	10 personnel
• Management Department:	5 personnel
• Collection Department:	10 personnel
• Merger & Acquisition Department:	5 personnel
• Human Resources Department:	15 personnel
• General Affairs Department:	10 personnel
• Customer Service Department:	15 personnel
- In charge of Japanese account (5)	
- In charge of Indonesian account (5)	
- In charge of Filipino account (5)	
• Translation/Interpretation Department:	5 personnel
• Public Relations Department:	5 personnel
• Office Secretary :	5 personnel

Duty Stations

- Manila metropolitan area
- Resident offices
  - Japan
  - Thai
  - USA
  - Indonesia
  - Singapore

Qualifications

- Male/female age 40 - 60 for Executives
  25 - 45 for Staffs
- Must have experience in banking or insurance business

Job opportunities for executives (Filipinos)

• Secretaries for Executives:	5 personnel (Male & Female)
• Office Secretary :	3 personnel
• Legal Department	3 personnel
• Cash Department:	10 personnel
• Loan Department:	5 personnel
• Management Department:	3 personnel
• Collection Department:	2 personnel
• Merger & Acquisition Department:	2 personnel
• Human Resources Department:	2 personnel
• General Affairs Department:	2 personnel
• Customer Service Department:	2 personnel
• Translation/Interpretation Department:	2 personnel
• Public Relations Department:	2 personnel
• Security Guards for Executives:	10 personnel (Male)
• Drivers for Executives:	5 personnel (Male)

Compensation

• Executive Vice President	₱220,000. /mo
• Senior Vice President	₱180,000. /mo
• Vice President	₱150,000. /mo
• Assistant Vice President (or department manager)	₱120,000. /mo
• Manager (or section chief, branch manager)	₱ 60,000. /mo
• Assistant Manager (or sub-section chief)	₱ 35,000. /mo
• Senior Clerk (or chief clerk)	₱ 20,000. /mo
• Clerk (General employee) Indirect Department	₱ 12,000. /mo
• Clerk (General employee) Cash Department	₱ 12,000. /mo
• Drivers	₱ 9,000. /mo
	+ Bonus

Benefits:

- Bonus
  - Indirect Department: Twice a year
  - Cash Department: Twice a year + Special bonus
- Company trip - Once a year)
- Transportation fee - All the amount shall be paid by Company.

Deadline for application is on Oct. 15, 2001

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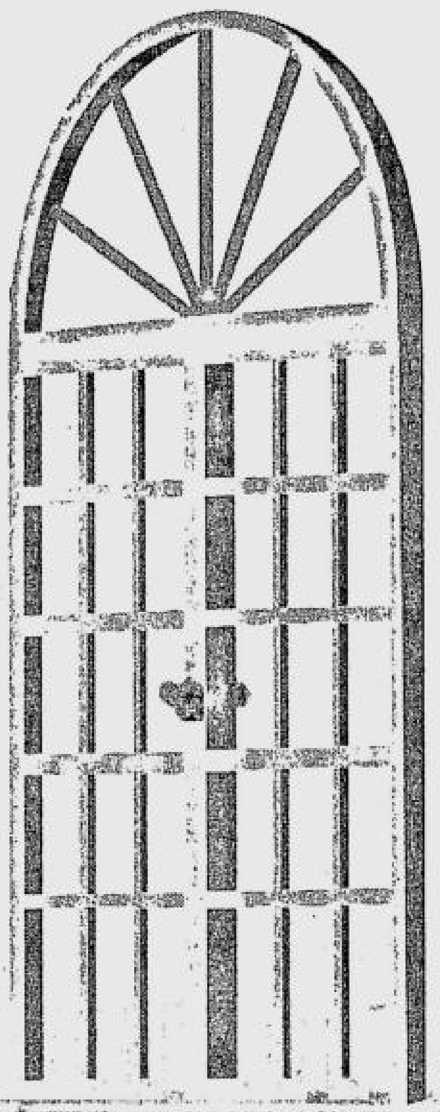

To Serve You.

The Five Principles of Unitrust Development Bank

1. Acquire businesses that do not pay the right amount of taxes. Convert them into good businesses honestly paying taxes and serve the mission of saving the world.
2. Acquire businesses enslaving the Philippines and its people. Convert into good businesses with fair treatments of its employees and serve the mission of saving the world.
3. Acquire businesses polluting the air, land, rivers, and oceans. Convert them into good businesses protecting the environment and serve the mission of saving the world.
4. Provide loans for small and medium enterprises that are victimized by other banks' reluctance and serve the mission of saving the world.
5. Provide assistance, as much as possible, for the weak and powerless victims of wrong national policies.

Secretaries for the Office of the Chairman

Directly reporting to Office of the Chairman, must be able to speak Japanese, between 30 to 45 years old.

Forty (40) Male or Female secretaries

Secretaries in charge of:

1. Human Resources 4 personnel
   In charge of approximately 5000 group members worldwide
2. Protective Detail 4 personnel
   With secret service experience, can perform protective duties for the Chairman
3. Finance 2 personnel
   In charge of finances of 120 group companies worldwide
4. Advertising 4 personnel
   In charge of advertising activities
5. Legal Affairs 2 personnel
   Knowledgeable in civil, corporate and criminal laws
6. Political Affairs 2 personnel
   In charge of political affairs activities
7. Video Production 2 personnel
   In charge of movie and commercial production
8. Public Relations 2 personnel
   In charge of public relations activities
9. Merger & Acquisition 5 personnel
   In charge of merger and acquisition activities
10. Environmental Affairs 2 personnel
    In charge of environmental protection activities
11. Management Information 2 personnel
    In charge of planning computer applications and control of management information
12. General Affairs 4 personnel
    In charge of Chairman's general affairs
13. Travel Arrangements 5 personnel
    In charge of domestic and overseas itineraries of the Chairman

For the above assignments, the following pay scales will be adopted:

Class 1 Secretary	₱80,000 /mo.
Class 2 Secretary	₱50,000 /mo.
Class 3 Secretary	₱30,000 /mo.

INTERVIEWS TO BE HELD AT

HOTEL INTER-CONTINENTAL MANILA
1 Ayala Ave., Makati City

Please bring comprehensive resume with cover letter and latest 2x2 picture

UNITRUST DEVELOPMENT BANK
Head office:
UDB Building 803 J. P. Rizal corner
F. Zobel Streets, Makati City, Philippines
Tel.:(632) 899-8424 Fax: (632) 899-2429

For Inquiries Please Call: (632) 899-8424 • 899-8426 to 27

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
SAN LAZARO HOSPITAL
Quiricada St., Sta. Cruz
Manila
Telephone Nos.: 732-37-76 to 78; 732-31-06
Email Address: snlazaro@doh.gov.ph
SLH BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The San Lazaro Hospital hereby invites sealed written bids for the procurement and delivery of various hospital supplies and materials and Hospital Services for First Semester CY, 2002.

Only responsible and duly accredited suppliers and/or exclusive distributors as certified by the Supplier Accreditation Committee of the Department of Health (DOH) are qualified to participate.

Bidding documents can be secured at the Secretariat, SLH BAC, Office of the Administrative Officer V, 2nd floor, Administration Building, SLH, Sta. Cruz, Manila, upon presentation of the following:

1. Authenticated DOH Suppliers Accreditation Certificate with the certified list of accredited products;
2. Authenticated Certificate of Product Registration;
3. Authenticated copy of License to Operate.

And upon presentation of a non-refundable fee as indicated per category/item.

Particulars	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-bid Conference	Submission of Bids	Opening of Bids
A. Hospital Services:				
1. Security Services	Oct. 15-19, 2001	Oct. 23, 2001 9:00 a.m.	Nov. 8, 2001 9:00 a.m.	Nov. 8, 2001 9:01 a.m.
2. Janitorial services	Oct. 15-19, 2001	Oct. 23, 2001 2:00 p.m.	Nov. 8, 2001 2:00 p.m.	Nov. 8, 2001 2:01 p.m.
3. Laundry Services	Oct. 15-19, 2001	Oct. 23, 2001 3:00 p.m.	Nov. 9, 2001 9:00 a.m.	Nov. 9, 2001 9:01 a.m.
B. Hospital Supplies and Materials:				
1. Various Drugs / Medicines	Oct. 22-31, 2001	Oct. 29, 2001 9:00 a.m.	Nov. 16, 2001 9:00 a.m.	Nov. 16, 2001 9:01 a.m.
2. Various Laboratory Supplies	Oct. 22-31, 2001	Oct. 29, 2001 2:00 p.m.	Nov. 19, 2001 9:00 a.m.	Nov. 19, 2001 9:01 a.m.
3. Various Medical Supplies	Oct. 22-31, 2001	Oct. 30, 2001 9:00 a.m.	Nov. 19, 2001 2:00 p.m.	Nov. 19, 2001 2:01 p.m.
4. Various Dietary Foodstuff	Oct. 22-31, 2001	Oct. 30, 2001 2:00 p.m.	Nov. 20, 2001 9:00 a.m.	Nov. 20, 2001 9:01 a.m.
5. Various Radiology Supplies	Oct. 22-31, 2001	Oct. 31, 2001 9:00 a.m.	Nov. 20, 2001 2:00 p.m.	Nov. 20, 2001 2:01 p.m.
6. Various Dental Supplies	Oct. 22-31, 2001	Oct. 31, 2001 10:00 a.m.	Nov. 20, 2001 3:30 p.m.	Nov. 20, 2001 3:31 p.m.
7. Various Maintenance Supplies	Oct. 22-31, 2001	Nov. 5, 2001 9:00 a.m.	Nov. 26, 2001 9:00 a.m.	Nov. 26, 2001 9:01 a.m.
8. Various Office and Janitorial Supplies	Oct. 22-31, 2001	Nov. 5, 2001 2:00 p.m.	Nov. 26, 2001 2:00 p.m.	Nov. 26, 2001 2:01 p.m.

All activities shall be held at the SLH Amphitheater Audio Visual Room, SLH Sta. Cruz, Manila unless announced otherwise.

Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than two and a half percent (2.5%) of the total amount of bid, except for those categories wherein amount of Bid security is specified in the Bid documents.

For further details, please contact the Secretariat, SLH BAC at telephone Nos. 309-95-52 or 711-69-66 (telefax).

San Lazaro Hospital BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, rejects all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders on the reasons to do so. The SLH BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify Bids nor deem it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ELEONORITA E. REYES**
Chairperson, SLH BAC

Noted by:
(Sgd.) **BENITO F. ARCA, MD, MPH**
Medical Center Chief II

(PDI – Oct. 7 & 14, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **MR. ARMANDO "MANDY" M. SINIO of #91 P. Noval Street, España, Sampaloc, Manila**, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with **CUBIC FREIGHT, INC.** since **September 21, 2001**. Any transaction entered into by this person will not be honored by us.

(PDI – Oct. 7, 2001) THE MANAGEMENT

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **MS. MARIBETH "MITCHIE" M. TOLENTINO of #918 Kundiman Street, Sampaloc, Manila**, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with **CUBIC FREIGHT, INC.** since **September 21, 2001**. Any transaction entered into by this person will not be honored by us.

(PDI – Oct. 7, 2001) THE MANAGEMENT

Republic of the Philippines
MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Metro Manila

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) invites interested bidders to submit Application for Prequalification or Eligibility and subsequently to bid, if qualified for the hereunder project:

1. Name of Project : ASIA Development Project Phase III (Aviation Support Industrial Area)
2. Contract Budget : Php 9,175,997.92
3. Minimum Requirements : 1. PCAB License Category : A General Building
   2. IAC License Category : Medium B for Buildings
   3. 5 years experience in construction of building

Forms for application for Prequalification/Eligibility may be secured from the Office of the Assistant General Manager for Operations, 2nd Floor, MIAA Administration Building, NAIA, Pasay City from **October 8-12, 2001** upon presentation of Letter of Intent. Deadline for the submission of duly accomplished Pre-qualification/Eligibility Form shall be on **October 19, 2001.**

Official Bid Documents will be issued only to pre-qualified contractors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) for the project. The time and date of the submission and opening of bids, pre-bid conference/s and other affairs concerning the project shall be announced and confirmed in the Notice of Pre-qualification.

The MIAA reserves the right to reject any or all bids duly received, waive any minor defect in the proposals, accept the offer that will be evaluated to be the most advantageous to the Authority nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. JOSE N. GO, JR.**
Chairman, BAC-1

(PDI - Sept. 30, Oct. 3 & 7, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Capiz
MUNICIPALITY OF IVISAN

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

World Bank Loan No.: 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the Local Government Finance and Development (LOGOFIND) Project and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract **Construction of Ivisan Memorial Park.** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the **Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.**
2. The Municipality of Ivisan, Capiz invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of **Ivisan Memorial Park to include Siteworks, Fencing, Chapel and Administrative Building, Drainage, Sidewalk, Curb and Gutter, Roadway, Parking Space, Perimeter Niches, Pathways and Electrical Works.**
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting **October 8-12, 2001 from 9:00 a.m. up to 3:00 p.m. at the Office of the Municipal Engineer, Ivisan, Capiz** for a nonrefundable fee of **Three Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P3,500.00)** or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by security **Two Hundred Forty Thousand Three Hundred Pesos (P240,300.00)** in a form of cash, cashier's check, letter of credit, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the **Municipal Session Hall, Ivisan, Capiz** on or before **November 19, 2001 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning.** They will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. Pre-bid conference will be held on **October 19, 2001 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the Municipal Session Hall, Ivisan, Capiz.**

(Sgd.) **NOEL N. YAP**
Municipal Mayor

(PDI – Oct. 7, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - CARFU
Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management Proje
Sto. Tomas Road, Baguio Dairy Farm, Baguio City
Tele/Fax Nos. 444-79-94/444-83-29
PO Box 1158
E-Mail: charm@mozcom.com

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The **Department of Agriculture (DA)** as the Implementing Agency of the **Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management (CHARM) Project** invites duly authorized distributors and suppliers of heavy equipment who have been in the business for the last five (5) years to participate in the public bidding for the supply and acquisition of the following:

- **Three (3) units Grader**
  Equipped with V-shaped scarifier; with Rops Cab;
  Engine: four (4) stroke cycle turbo-charged; 6 cylinder 130 HP;
  Transmission: Direct drive, powershift
  Front and Rear tires: 13.00 x 24 x 12 PR traction type

All interested parties are hereby required to submit the following documents for evaluation not later than 5:00 p.m. on **October 24, 2001** at the Department of Agriculture - SPCMAD, Room 302, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City or Project Support Office of CHARM Project, Sto. Tomas Road, Baguio Dairy Farm, Baguio City:

a. Distributorship Agreement
b. Business Permit
c. DTI Registration
d. Latest Income Tax Return
e. VAT/Non-VAT Registration
f. Detailed Profile of the Firm
g. Duly Audited Financial Statements for the last three years
h. Other relevant documents, as may be required

Further information may be obtained at the DA-SPCMAD at telephone numbers 927-9636 to 39 or DA-CHARM PSO at telephone numbers (074) 444-7994, (074) 444-8329.

Bidding documents will be issued to qualified bidders from **October 30, 2001** up to **November 5, 2001** at DA-SPCMAD or DA-CHARM PSO. Cost of the Bid Documents is P500.00 (non-refundable).

The Pre-Bid Conference and Opening of Bids will be held at DA-CHARM Project Conference Room on **November 6, 2001**, 2:00 PM and **November 13, 2001**, 2:00 PM respectively.

A bidders bond equivalent to 2.5% of the total bid price in the form of either cash or manager's/cashier's check must be submitted together with the bid.

DA-CHARM Project reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, waive any defect contained therein and accept offers most advantageous to the Department/Project.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. EDUARDO E. GARCIA**
Director, Legal Service/
Special Bids and Awards
Committee (SBAC) Chairman

(PDI – Oct. 6, 7 & 8, 2001)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites all information systems providers/resellers to prequalify and bid for the supply, delivery, installation and implementation of an Integrated Internal Services System (IISS) Package. The IISS shall cover procurement, fixed assets, and supplies monitoring.

Interested bidders should meet the following criteria:

1. Product Existence (based on certification)	At least 3 years
2. Worth of System Development Projects/Sales (based on Financial Statements or FS) (cumulative 1999 & 2000)	At least Php 5 Million

In line with this, please secure the list of pre-qualification documents not later than 5:00 PM, **October 12, 2001** from Mr. Alex Mercado of the Information Technology Center, 3rd Floor PDIC Building, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City.

Time, date and place of opening of eligibility and bid envelopes shall be announced later.

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

(Sgd.) **CATHERINE F. BAMBA**
Chairman, BAC-ITR

(PDI – Oct. 6 & 7, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
METROSTAR EXPRESS

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND RE-BID

The DOTC-MRT 3 Bids and Awards Committee invites all interested bidders/suppliers to prequalify and bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

14 units of Computers Pentium 4
1 unit of Notebook Computer Pentium 4

Accreditation requirements can be obtained upon payment of non-refundable fee of P100.00 to the Administrative Division, DOTC-MRT 3 Depot, North Avenue cor. EDSA, North Triangle Area, Quezon City. Submission of duly accomplished and notarized pre-qualification documents shall not be later than 5:00 p.m., **October 15, 2001.** Accredited/pre-qualified bidders/suppliers need not apply.

Bid documents and complete specifications are available for issuance upon payment of P500.00, which is not refundable, and upon presentation of Notice of Invitation and Certificate of Accreditation.

The DOTC-MRT 3 reserves the right to reject any or all bids proposals without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. This office, likewise, assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids nor does it guarantee that an award shall be made.

(Sgd.) **MARIO C. MIRANDA**
Acting General Manager
Metrostar Express, and Chairman, PBAC

(PDI - Oct. 6, 7 & 8, 2001)

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1997	Mitsubishi Lancer 1.6/URT-515
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(PDI-October 7, 2001)

PERSONAL

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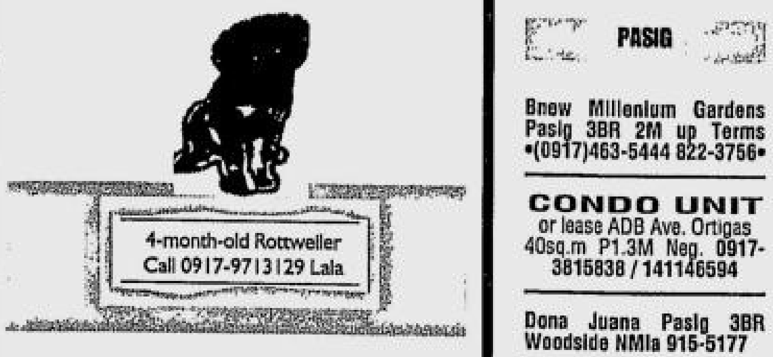

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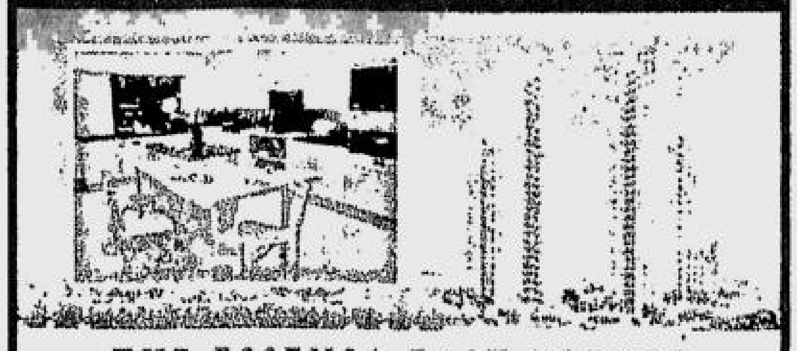

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Brentwood Heights, Jerusalem St. Multinational Village, Paranaque	121.92	6 units, upscale 2-storey, 3BR-townhouse	P 2.4 M per unit
Sherwood Heights, Jerusalem St. Multinational Village, Paranaque	104.30	4 units, luxury 2-storey 3BR-townhouse	P 2.2 M per unit
Pinnacle Condominium Wack Wack Road, Mandaluyong	297.66 each	2 units with 2 parking each; with 3BR and 3TB	P 17.2 M per unit
Sta. Barbara Luxury Estates Subd. Mission Hills, Antipolo City	1,000 to 1,326	5 prime lots in an exclusive residential community	P 4.45 M to P 6.22 M per lot
Bo. Iruhin, Tagaytay City	12,673	overlooking Taal Lake	P 56.32 M
B. COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL			
The World Centre Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	654 to 691	3 office condo units for sale or lease	P 52.83 M to P 55.57 M
Petron Mega Plaza Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	1,530	6 office condo units for sale or lease	P 136.05 M to P 137.55 M
Aurora Blvd. cor. Balete Drive Quezon City	7,677	corner lot near New Manila area	P 187.92 M
Carlos Palanca Sr., San Miguel Quiapo, Manila	18,078	vacant lot near SM main office/warehouse	P 310.14 M
J. Villena cor. Albert Sts. Poblacion, Makati City	300	corner lot near Rockwell Center	P 11.66 M
P. Burgos cor. San Agustin Sts. Poblacion, Makati City	492	corner lot just off Makati Ave. and J.P. Rizal St.	P 46.47 M
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3) Res'l Lot / Lot 1, Zinnia Ave., Ladislawa Village, Bo. Buhangin / LA - 545	1,540,000
4) Res'l Lot / Lot 8, 1st Ave., Juna Subd., Matina / LA – 680	1,640,000
5) Res'l Lot / Lot 9, 1st Ave., Juna Subd. Matina / LA – 680	1,640,000
6) Res'l Lot / Lot 16, 2nd Ave., Juna Subd. Matina / LA – 680	1,640,000
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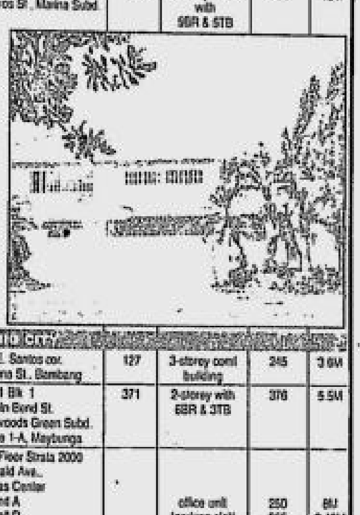
BULACAN				
Interior Rd., Brgy Minuyan Norzagaray	1000	warehouse building	216	1.7M
1966 La Trinidad Subd. Lolomboy, Bocaue	230	2-storey with 3BR & 2TB	144	1.150M
177 Tangerine St. Felicisima Village Brgy Mojon & Bulihan Malolos	240	1-storey with 3BR & 1TB	63	600T
Lot 23/24 Rd. Lot 35 Golden Village, Tabang Guiguinto	400	16 units of apartment	548	3.5M
KALOOCAN CITY				
No 34 Magsaysay St. Del Rey Subd., Baesa	374	2-storey single detached with 6BR & 4TB	414	4.6M
Lot 16 & 17, Sta Maria St. Guadanovilla Subd. Tala	600	2-storey with 5BR & 4TB plus servants quarter	620	6M
Lot 10 Blk. 4 Easter Lily St. BF Homes Phase 3 Deparo	275	2-storey with 5BR & 3TB	290	2.6M
Lot 12 & 13, Molave St. Silonganan Subd. Bo. Llano	400	2-storey with 4BR & 3TB	185	2.1M
36 Massabielle St. Gracepark	150	2-storey house	256	2.250M
Rivera Compound Bayanihan St., Baesa	145	3-storey with 6BR & 6TB	382	1.8M
MUNTINLUPA CITY				
Unit 423-C Arcadia del Grande Townhomes Carlos Galleria	88	2-storey with 4BR & 3TB	114	1.2M
Unit 423-F Galleria del Grande Townhomes Cupang	88	2-storey with 3BR & 2TB	111	1.050M
PARANAQUE CITY				
No 808 Armela Comp Km. 17 Int. of West Service Rd. South Super Highway*	3585.55	11 parcels of land (with 5 units of warehouse & plant site)		23.2M
Unit 315-E Abbey St. Goodwill Subd. III Bo. San Dionisio*	111	townhouse unit		1.57M
17 Nuestra Señora de Soledad San Antonio Valley 9	264	a bungalow with 5BR & 2TB and 2-storey with 5BR & 3TB	421	2.4M
604 Pacific Coast Plaza Coastal Road		condo unit with 2BR & 2TB	167	6M
1401 Pacific Coast Plaza Coastal Road		condo unit with 2BR & 2TB	108	7M
No 3 E. Aguinaldo St. South Admiral Village	375	2-storey with 5BR & 4TB	341	6.5M
PARANAQUE CITY				
Lot 9 Blk. 25, No. 14 Negros St., Marina Subd.	659	2-storey house with 5BR & 5TB	450	15M
PASIG CITY				
115 E. Santos cor. A. Luna St., Bambang	127	3-storey coml building	245	3.6M
Lot 11 Blk 1 Lincoln Bond St. Parkwoods Green Subd. Phase 1-A, Maybunga	371	2-storey with 6BR & 3TB	376	5.5M
20th Floor Strata 2000 Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center Unit A Unit D		office unit (parking slot/ 400T)	250 265	6M 6.48M
QUEZON CITY				
Unit 4, 5th Flr. New San Jose Bldg No. 118 Sct. Fernandez St.		condo with 1BR & 1TB	43.16	1.1M
35 Frost cor. Grant St. Filinvest Homes II	378	2-storey with 4BR & 4TB	268	3.5M
Unit 412 Century Imperial Palace Timog Ave. cor. T. Morato St.		condo with 2BR & 1TB	56.39	2.1M
57-B Dumonela St. Roxas District	31.05	2-storey apt with 2BR & 1TB	56.93	550T
Unit J-28 Potential Townhouse, 15th Ave. Cubao	111	2-storey townhouse with 4BR & 4TB	186	4.6M
25 Antonette St. Parkway Village M.H. Del Pilar St., Kaingin	360	3-storey resdl/ coml building	600	7.5M
Lot 4-B Doña Juliana St. Doña Carmen Subd.	60	townhouse with 3BR & 3TB	110	1.6M
No. 60 Juan St. Hayaville Subd. Bahay Toro	494	2-storey with 6BR & 4TB	486.02	10M
SAN JUAN				
No. 453 Don Ejercito St. Crystal Homes Unit 5 Unit 6 Unit 7 Unit 8 Unit 10 Unit 11 Unit 12	 34.5 34.5 34.5 34.5 35 45 45	3-storey townhomes with 2BR & 3TB individual parking	 105.60 105.52 105.52 105.52 107.64 123.58 123.58	 3.1M 3.1M 3.1M 3.1M 3.2M 3.7M 3.7M
Unit 23 PA Eisenhower Condominium Eisenhower St.		condo unit with 3BR & 4TB, servants qtr with TB, 2 parking slots	259.55	15M
Unit 26 PA Eisenhower Condominium Eisenhower St.		condo unit with 3BR & 4TB, servants qtr with TB, 2 parking slots	259.55	15M
Unit 19 E One Beverly Place, Annapolis St. Greenhills		condo unit with 3BR & 2TB, with parking slot (1)	166	7.4M
SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA				
203 Gladiola St. Camella Homes South	150	2-storey with 6BR & 2TB	174	1.7M



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TALK TO US

Is it your style to have life insurance?

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA

HAS the Filipino's overall attitude toward life insurance changed? Life Insurance Consciousness Week once again makes us ask that question.

Whether single or married, high-, middle- or low-income earners, more people now realize the value of purchasing a life insurance policy. When one has experienced the death of a loved one or is employed in a high-risk occupation, the desire to protect one's family from life's uncertainties becomes even greater.

Lifestyle did a random survey of people from different walks of life and posed to them the question, "Do you have life insurance?" Ten out of 10 people asked said that they did. A good sign, indeed.

JOY BUENSALIDO, *PR practitioner; head, Buensalido and Associates*

Yes, I believe and have life insurance because I want to leave something for those whom I will leave behind. If I happen to pass away prematurely, at least my family, especially my children, will have a little to support their needs until they themselves can stand on their own feet. Insurance is not so much for the insured, but for the loved ones left behind.

IS IT/ p.C4

A+
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Meet Every Body's Hero
THE SMART Cinema Club
invites you to watch
OSMOSIS JONES
AN ACTION COMEDY THAT GETS UNDER YOUR SKIN.
WARNER BROS. PICTURES

OPENS IN CINEMAS OCTOBER 10
www.osmosisjones.com
MTRCB Rating: GP

Join the Smart Cinema Club now and be every body's hero with the Cinema Club Quest!
Discover one cell of a guy with Osmosis Jones' exclusive movie logos, picture messages, group graphics, screen savers & games!

Official Osmosis Jones logos
ojozzyshoot (Picture Message/Screen Saver)
ojcookthraxl (Operator Logo/Group Graphic)
ojtitle (Picture Message/Screen Saver)
ojdrixflavorl (Operator Logo/Group Graphic)
ojactiontitle (Picture Message/Screen Saver)

Display inside the body adventures with the official Osmosis Jones graphics. All these are available only to Smart Cinema Club members, so join now by keying in **JOIN CINEMA**. If you need more information on different keywords, key in **HELP** <command>. Send all commands to 239.

To Get Osmosis Jones...	Key In...
Logo List of Keywords	LOGO OJ and send to 239
Logos*	LOGO <keyword> and send to 239
Group Graphics Keywords	GROUP OJ and send to 239
Group Graphics*	GROUP <keyword> and send to 239
Picture Messages List of Keywords	PIC OJ and send to 239

All text messages sent are P2.50 each.

To Get Osmosis Jones...	Key In...
Picture Messages	PIC <keyword> and send to 239
Screen Savers List Of Keywords	SAVEROJ and send to 239
Screen Savers**	SAVER <keyword> and send to 239
To play the Quest Game	PLAY <OJ/OJ2/OJ3> and send to 239
To invite a friend	INVITE <your friend's #> and send to 239

*Available on selected Nokia handsets only **Available on Nokia 3310, 3330, and 8250
Note: If you're already playing a Smart Cinema Club game, quit first.

Want an inside the body adventure? Play the Cinema Club Quest!
In this game, you are a rookie white blood cell on a mission to stop a rash. Goodluck, detective!
Start your mission!
Key-in PLAY <OJ/OJ2/OJ3> and send to 239.
Sample quest question:
Ambushed thrax! But he has Drix as hostage. Thrax starts his way back into the colon. You and Drix exchange glances. What do u tell him?
1. Stay strong. I will find you.
2. Fire ur cannon n d air
3. Xchange places w Drix
4. Bye-bye. No use f we both die, right?
To answer, simply press REPLY and key in the number and send to 239.

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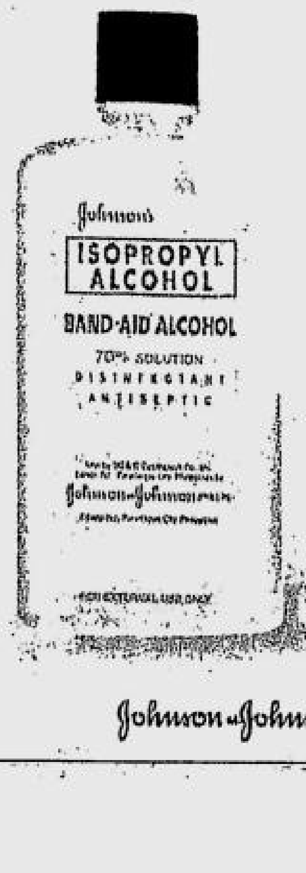

Kapag ang mga bata na ang nahawa, talaga namang nakaka-awa. Sa dami ng sakit na kumakalat ngayon, kailangang maniguro. Kaya proteksiyunan ang pamilya at magdisinfect sa paggamit ng **Band-Aid 70% Isopropyl Alcohol**. Ibuhos sa mga kamay ang **kakayahan mong magpagaling.**

Johnson & Johnson

Help Stop Epidemic With Band-Aid 70% Isopropyl Alcohol

This time of the year, one never knows what kind of weather the day will bring. What could start off as a sunny day suddenly ends up all wet with the afternoon showers. We may not be aware of it, but our health takes the brunt of these unpredictable weather changes.

Just recently, there has been a reported sharp rise in the number of cases of asthma, flu, cough and colds in Metro Manila. With many children being rushed to the hospitals or brought to the school clinics, a lot of people suspect that a viral epidemic is going around.

So, how do we put a stop to the spread of germs? Aside from proper food, exercise, rest and vitamins, we should always remember to observe proper hygiene. It is still the most important way to prevent infection. But it is even better to be armed nowadays with an effective antiseptic that would disinfect any deadly microorganisms or germs lurking around.

The Real Antiseptic Score Behind Band-Aid 70% Isopropyl Alcohol

The one choice of most mothers and of most hospitals in Metro Manila for this kind of germ clean-up job is the tried-tested-and-trusted **Band-Aid 70% Isopropyl Alcohol. It has 70% Isopropyl Alcohol** content, which **kills 99.9% of germs within 15 to 20 seconds of contact. It has the approval of the Bureau of Food and Drug Administration (BFAD) for all-around disinfecting use.**

Used properly and, as in all things in life, with moderation, **Band-Aid 70% Isopropyl Alcohol is safe for general external use everyday.** It has greater **bacteriocidal effect** and thus, **more superior antiseptic properties than ethyl alcohol.** Fact is, for many years now, it has proven itself effective at home in overall hygiene and disinfecting – cleaning the umbilical cord or navel of the newborn and the surrounding areas of wounds, massaging tired, aching muscles, and relieving prickly heat and itchy insect bites.

Most Metro Manila hospitals use Band-Aid 70% Isopropyl Alcohol as a potent pre-operative skin cleanser and a decontaminating agent. It is likewise used to clean contaminated surfaces and medical instruments like the clinical thermometer. Based on a US study, **the use of 70% Isopropyl Alcohol is effective in reducing the number of colony count of resident bacterial flora on the hands of nursery personnel.** This is welcome news especially because newborn infants are highly susceptible to skin infection.

Stop Germs Before They Stop You

Truly, an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure. **Regular disinfecting with Band-Aid 70% Isopropyl Alcohol significantly reduces the risk of infection or of an epidemic outbreak.** This not only saves you from paying skyrocketing hospital bills and medicines but can also help save lives!

So, spread the word now on how to prevent the spread of those infectious germs around. Make **Band-Aid 70% Isopropyl Alcohol** a family health habit and a regular hospital hygiene practice. A few drops of **Band-Aid 70% Isopropyl Alcohol** anytime of the day help keep infectious germs away.

October is consumer month

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

WELL, what do you know? It's consumer month! Day one was officially launched by the Department of Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas during the formal opening of a consumer trade fair at the Megatrade hall of SM Megamall.

In his keynote address, Secretary Roxas admitted that the Consumer Act has to be amended so DTI can act directly on consumer complaints, and not just serve as a referral agency.

Nonetheless, he advised consumers, "learn to demand good quality, safety and value-for-money." With the realities of weak global economy, consumers should patronize local products, he added.

"It is not true that imported stuff are better than locally manufactured products. Our products are tested and inspected to conform to quality and safety standards before these are released to the market."

Roxas urged consumers to report establishments that abuse consumer rights and violate the consumer welfare law. We should, indeed! Moreover, products that fall short of quality and safety should be reported to DTI so manufacturers will be aware that Filipino consumers won't settle for less.

By the way, we received letters from DTI-NCR Director Luwina Enecio on the progress of consumer complaints we forwarded to her office. One of the complainants, however, cannot be reached through her e-mail address. Director Enecio advised A. Santos, the complainant, to write to her office for advice on the procedures of filing a formal consumer complaint at DTI. A. Santos complained about the defective motorcycle she purchased, a brand-new 4-stroke automatic clutch model.

Last week, we advised Dr. Stella Guerrero Manalo, pediatrician of UP-Philippine General Hospital to file a formal complaint at the office of the DTI-NCR director. The sport utility vehicle she bought was evidently defective. Like the motorcycle of A. Santos, the SUV of Dr. Manalo was in and out of the repair shop because of a steering wheel problem. The inevitable happened when the vehicle went out of control along C-5. Had it not been for the driver's presence of mind, it could have been worst.

For folks who have been asking us for the name of Dr. Manalo's car and the company that sold it, please send your query to the doctor's e-mail address manalos@email.com.ph.

And for advice on how to file formal complaints, write to Director Enecio at DTI Regional Director, 12/F Trafalgar Plaza Building, 105 H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.

Complaint against speech teach

We will call her Wayne of e-mail address aiz924@yahoo.com. She wrote to us that she enrolled in a popular speech clinic in Sampaloc and paid P10,000 for an eight-course class. Even at the start, however, Wayne already found fault with one of the speech instructors who couldn't differentiate the sound of "angle" from "angel."

She said it got worst when she and the other students were forced to buy a speech kit priced at P1,500 to be delivered two to three weeks later. She could only pay part of the cost and assured the school secretaries she would pay the balance soon as she got the money from her parents. The school owner warned her that if she didn't pay the kit next session, she would not be admitted in class.

Wayne added: "The owner had to embarrass me in class to remind me again that I hadn't paid the kit yet. I know she should not be threatening me because I have paid in full my enrollment fees. Truth is, I am not satisfied with the sessions."

We advise Wayne to write to DTI-NCR on the proper procedure to file a formal complaint with the right agency. For more details, she can also call ConsumerNet at 890-4932 or 890-4971 or call DTI-NCR public information officer Angie Sumalinog at 811-8231.

Comments

Here are varied reactions to the experience of a Filipino traveler whose problem with Australian airport officers started with a cell phone (PDI, 09/16/01):

Anton Mercado observed that many Filipino cellular phone users have the penchant to break rules, not to mention that they are oblivious to mobile phone etiquette. He wrote: "How many times have we been reminded to keep phones in silent mode during religious ceremonies and public performances, and yet we hear buzzes and beeps from cell phone owners?

"Nokia even had to issue PhoneEthics to remind us that we are pushing the limits. In the case of the Filipino traveler on Quantas, he sure has every right to cry out his consumer rights over the purchase of his plane ticket and mobile phone, but he should bear in mind the strict airline policy against any electronic gadgets on board. He put at risk lives of people on board by keeping his mobile phone on. I see no racial discrimination in this incident. In a global scenario, nobody is above the law. Furthermore, he encroached on the rights of his fellow passengers, and that is the right to live."

D.C. Uy of Xavierville II, Loyola Heights commented: "Let us assume that the flight stewardess really did yell at the Filipino passenger who forgot to shut off his cell phone on board. Seasoned travelers should know Westerners react differently, unlike us Pinoys, when something so obvious a rule is violated. Had it been a Westerner who was yelled at, knowing his transgression, he would have expectedly apologized. Most Filipinos would have lost face.

"The passenger admitted to touching the hand of the stewardess to call her attention. Why, as a result of that, would the ground marshals be called in to escort him out of the plane? Without this, the passenger would probably have remained on board."

Mr. Uy also said that cell phone users, particularly in Makati City, blatantly ignore city ordinance which tells people to turn off cell phones inside movie houses. "I have not been to any movie showing in recent memory when I did not hear a cell phone ring."

There must be strict enforcement of the illegal use of cell phones in restricted places. The fines and penalties should be stiff enough.

Announcement

The Well Drillers Association of the Philippines Inc. or Weldaphil will have a seminar on well construction problems and pump selection maintenance on Oct. 19-20 at the Manila Galleria Suites in Ortigas Center.

Weldaphil president Rex Victor Puentespina said that the seminar would provide participants knowledge and skills in exploring various well construction problems that can affect the successful completion of well-drilling projects.

Among the subjects to be discussed are well problems in the Philippines, appropriate well design, drilling mud control, pump selection and troubleshooting.

For more details, call 929-9306; 924-2730; 0919-3218681.

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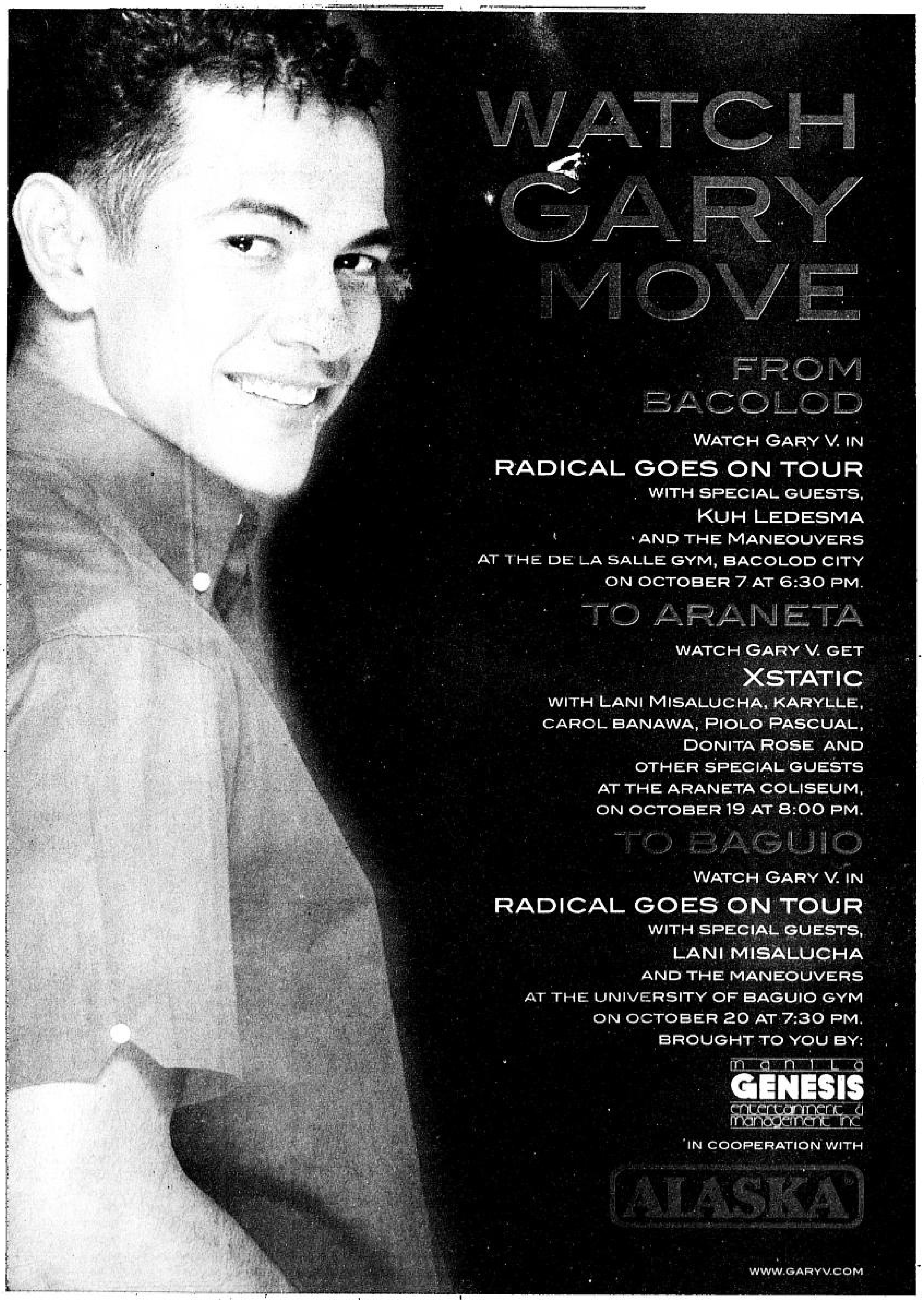

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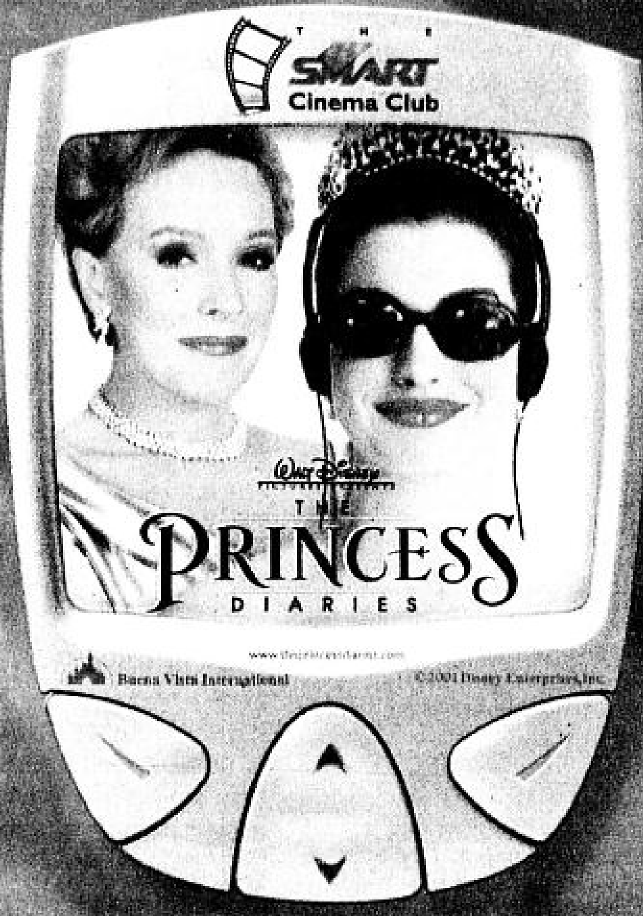

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Note: *If you're already playing a Smart Cinema Club game, quit first before you take the test.*

Only registered Smart Cinema Club Members may avail of the exclusive movie graphics and games. To join, key in **JOIN CINEMA** and send to 239. You will receive instructions for the next registration steps.
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Insurance–wise investment or unnecessary expense?

By Rowena C. Burgos

It pays to be well-insured but you can likely do without some policies

CHANCES are you would do anything to provide for your kids and your spouse for any eventuality. And you certainly don't want to be a financial burden to your family if you get sick.

However, although these are good reasons to get good life and health insurance and solid disability and property policies, many people would rather save in banks than buy insurance mainly because of high premium payments.

"Most Filipinos have been used to saving in banks and they are not aware that insurance companies are also saving institutions, [and] are even superior. When one saves money through insurance, he gets protection and, at the same time, acquires an investment. In banks, your money goes to pure savings," says National Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis.

A person wanting to save P100,000 within three years has to deposit in the bank a specific amount for a certain period until he achieves his goal. If he meets an accident or suddenly dies before he accomplishes his goal, however, his family will only get whatever money is in the bank plus interest.

On the other hand, a P100,000 life insurance policy for 10 years will pay the heirs of the person insured P100,000 if anything happens during that period. If nothing happens to the insured, the proceeds will be given to him at the end of the period of coverage.

No matter how careful a person is, there are circumstances beyond his control. He cannot know for sure what will happen to him tomorrow, next month or next year. Insurance, Malinis says, is a system to protect people from unexpected events and losses whether involving life, limb or property.

Filipinos seem to have started to appreciate the value of preparing for the unforeseen. The number of Filipino life insurance policyholders has doubled since 1995 from 10-11 percent to 20 percent of the population. "This can be attributed to foreign investments, introduction of competitive products, increase in the number of insurance agents and a growing awareness of the significance of having an insurance," Malinis says.

What to insure

Insurance policies fall into three basic groups: life, health and property and casualty. Life insurance is a way to provide a person's family with money to be able to carry on after his death. On the other hand, health insurance aims to ease the burden of paying for expenses arising from illnesses and injuries. Property insurance can cover all or part of the cost if a person suffers a loss or damage to his house, car, furniture, office building or almost any kind of property. Casualty, sometimes called liability, insurance assumes the responsibility of paying for damage caused by an accident or injury.

RAUL Segovia, chair of Citizens Alliance for Consumer Protection ERIK ARAZAS

BOOJIE Lucila, insurance consultant, PhilAm Group of Companies ERNIE SARMIENTO

NATIONAL Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis ERIK ARAZAS

MALOT Arquero, unit manager, Sun Life RANDY HORMILLOSA

Ironically, people usually are more likely to insure tangible things or properties rather than provide for death or disability. It is natural for people to appreciate the value of the things they see. The usual hazards covered are fire, lightning, earthquake, typhoon, flood, malicious damage, burglary and robbery, third party liability on human lives or properties, accidental loss of stocks or merchandise while being transported.

"The usual objective is to recover cost or investments on such properties and/or recover potential loss in income," says Boojie Lucila, insurance consultant of the PhilAm Group of Companies.

For instance, in London, in the United States or in countries where there is great support from Big Reinsurance Companies, a finger, a hand, or any part of the body being utilized for commercial advertisements can be insured. She says this is to protect the income potential of the body part.

Lucila says it takes a lot of prodding and encouragement to get the people to appreciate and see the wisdom of buying insurance to protect a person's money-earning or income-generating potential. Sometimes, the value of personal insurance is only seen after tragedy, like the sudden death of a loved one. "A study in the US indicates that over a 15-year period, the chances are 17 times greater that a man will die rather than his house will burn down. Yet, the common tendency is to insure the full value of a property and underinsure, based on income potential, a person. This is what I describe as rather unusual or ironical," Lucila adds.

Beneficiary

Those who are insured have to designate a beneficiary or beneficiaries, who can be anyone, except those disqualified by law. But Malinis says a person who gets insurance for someone cannot make himself the beneficiary.

In an insurance policy, beneficiaries are named and designated either as revocable or irrevocable. Their shares in the proceeds are also defined. Revocable means one can still change the beneficiaries. On the other hand, irrevocable beneficiaries cannot be changed unless they agree to the amendment. Benefits received by a revocable beneficiary are subject to estate tax. An irrevocable beneficiary is tax-exempt.

Rules covering policies are set by the Insurance Code, Civil Code and Family Code of the Philippines.

According to Malot Arquero, unit manager of Sun Life, the beneficiary must have an "insurable interest" on the life of the insured. This means that the beneficiary will lose a lot when the insured dies as in the case of a family breadwinner, or a creditor unable to collect on the loans he extended.

"The interest of a beneficiary in a life insurance policy can be forfeited when one is the mistress of a man whose marriage has not yet been annulled. Even if they're already living together for many years, it's the wife who'll receive the proceeds of her husband's insurance. Neither does the law allow the insurance of one's pet or to make it one's beneficiary," Arquero says.

She adds that the law allows both legitimate and illegitimate children to become beneficiaries of their parents. However, a trustee has to be named when they are "unemancipated" or not yet of legal age.

Bank savings or insurance?

"A savings account is necessary for liquidity and emergencies. On the other hand, insurance should also be given priority if you want your family to live a comfortable life," Arquero says.

The best advice is not to let emotion rule over logic when considering any type of insurance. Be businesslike and remember to buy only the coverage you really need.

"An insurance policy gives a promise of security and protection. But beware of insurance companies that appeal to your fear of disaster or love of family to get you to buy coverage. Many of these policies provide limited protection at too high a price—and you don't need them," says Raul Segovia, chair of Citizens Alliance for Consumer Protection.

Segovia adds that you can insure the future of people and things most important to you without breaking your budget. "With good basic coverage and a savings account for emergencies, you'll be making wise use of your insurance pesos."

If you need further advice, talk to people from the Asian Institute of Insurance, National Insurance Commission, Philippine Life Insurance Association and insurance companies. They will evaluate your economic status and suggest a policy most suited to your need and budget.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

Is it your style to have life insurance?

(From page C1)

MYRNA PANLILIO BORROMEO, *mother*

I'm a firm believer in life insurance especially when I became the head of the family after my husband died. I do not want to be a burden on my children so *kumpleto ang mga* plans *ko*—even memorial plans. Even while my husband was alive I also had my own insurance policy—you know how it is when your friends sometimes pressure you to buy. All my children have policies of their own and I've upgraded several times. Plus, my sister is an underwriter and *pag naghahabol na siya ng* quota, we all get from her.

APPLES ABERIN SADHWANI, *model, mother of two*

Even while I was single I already had life insurance, simply because I want to be able to leave something behind for my family. Though I'm not the major breadwinner, somehow I hope that it will make things easier for them.

Nowadays, my husband and I invest more in endowment policies for the children.

PHOTO:JOHNNY VILLENA

MELISSA PAULINO, *flight attendant, single*

I've been a flight attendant for the last nine years. I bought life insurance in addition to the one provided by the company not just because I was egged on by my family and well-meaning flight attendant friends, but because there's more risk in my job. I want to secure my family's future.

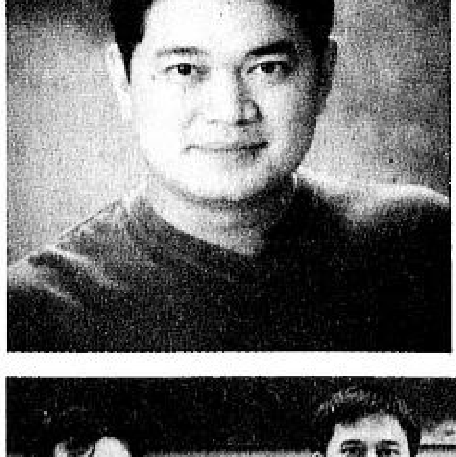
ROGER CARPIO

FRANCIS DEL VAL, *36, country manager, Glaxo-Smith Kline Consumer Health Care Division, married with three children*

Yes, I have life insurance and I bought it primarily for the security of the children's future. My wife Marisa and I have policies. While I was still single, my mother forced me to get a policy, but when I married and as the family grew, I realized the importance of getting another policy and upgrading it every now and then. It also helps that we have a very good agent who does an excellent financial analysis—I appreciate that a great deal. Plus there are the financial benefits when the insurance company demutualizes.

MAYA CALICA, *editor in chief, Seventeen magazine, single*

I got life insurance four years ago because I figured it was the responsible thing to do. I started with P500,000 and said I'd upgrade later on. I still haven't, but have been faithfully meeting the quarterly payments. I think it's a smart investment because it quiets—even just a little—that what-if-something-happens-to-me voice inside. But I'd say start with a smaller amount so you don't kill yourself meeting the payments.



JULIUS BABAO, *TV host*

Life is so uncertain nowadays and the best way to prepare for this is life insurance. It's an assurance that my family gets something in case something happens to me.

FO3 ARTEMIO LIMOSINERO JR., FO1 ANTHONY COLASITO AND FO3 EDISON RODRIGUEZ, *firemen, Makati City Fire Department*

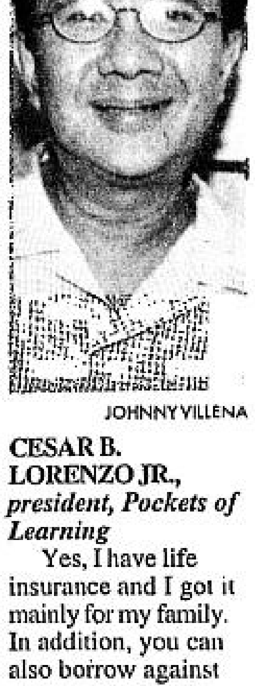
May mga policy *kaming lahat na pang-personal bukod doon sa bigay ng gobyerno kasi* risky *ang trabaho namin. May asawa o wala, kailangan talaga, para na rin may maiwan kami sa pamilya.*

DANNY ILDEFONSO, *basketball player, San Miguel Beer team*

Kailangan din, para kahit papaano may maiiwan sa pamilya. Kinuha ko yung unang policy *ko noong* 1998, *nagsisimula pa lang ako sa* PBA. *Medyo malaki pa ang* premium *noon pero hindi kami nagdalawang-isip at kumuha na rin kami.* Good investment *kasi. Yung* eldest *namin* 4 years old *pa lang.* After 12 years *pa siya magka-*college. By that time, *may* dividends *na yung* insurance *namin. Meron na kaming pampa-aral sa mga anak namin.*

SPO1 CESAR J. PINEDA, *Eastern Police District, Mandaluyong City*

Noong 1990 *na-*involve *ako sa* encounter, *may limang tama ako noon. Naisip ko ang pamilya ko, kawawa naman sila kung mamatay ako at* GSIS *lang ang aasahan nila. Simula noon kumuha na ako ng* insurance *na pansarili. Tatlo na nga ang* policy *ko ngayon, pati yung tatlo kong anak, may kanya-kanyang* policy *sila.*


JOHNNY VILLENA

CESAR B. LORENZO JR., *president, Pockets of Learning*

Yes, I have life insurance and I got it mainly for my family. In addition, you can also borrow against your policy later on so it's also an investment. I've upgraded my policy several times due to inflation and also because the premiums have become quite reasonable since the industry has become competitive.

From America, with dread

By Alex Y. Vergara

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks have transformed American airports into veritable barracks. But even barracks allow razors and nail cutters

MIAMI—Keep your scissors, razors and nail cutters packed in your suitcases next time you travel by air in the United States. Keep away those hair sprays, shaving creams and nail polish removers as well. Putting such grooming staples in a carry-on luggage is now a no-no unless you want them to end up in the hands of overzealous security people.

And, oh, a word of advice to foreigners, especially Middle East types: keep those passports handy even while traveling from, say, Atlanta to Miami. You'll need those IDs to prove that you're indeed who you claim you are in that ticket. What about curbside check-in? Forget it. Electronic ticketing? Not a chance. Long good-byes? Sorry.

Nowadays, the farthest a non-flying companion could go to is at the airport's check-in counter. People with no business at the airport are no longer allowed to go beyond those X-ray machines to accompany friends and loved ones while waiting for their flights at the boarding gate. Be prepared for random body searches as well. Sounds vaguely familiar? The Ninoy Aquino International Airport may be Jurassic by Western standards, but its personnel could dare say that they're more advanced—and less paranoid—in implementing security measures.

Your best bet is to arrive at the airport three hours before your scheduled flight. Too early? Take it from me, you would be glad you did. In the wake of the deadliest terrorist attacks to hit American soil, when extremists were able to hijack several planes and terrorize their passengers with pocket knives and box cutters, fast and convenient air travel has become a thing of the past in the US.

As part of a traveling group of international journalists pursuing a fellowship sponsored by the World Press Institute, this writer has seen the drastic changes in the country's airport security before and after bloody Tuesday. We found ourselves at the O'Hare Airport in Chicago last week, a day after flights resumed, to catch an American Airlines—gasp—flight to Atlanta. The thought that terrorists commandeered its planes before slamming them into World Trade Center's North Tower sent shivers down my spine.

Deep trouble

If this is the nation's busiest airport—a claim also contested by folks in Atlanta—then America is in deep trouble. The ramp leading to the famed airport that day was nearly deserted of vehicles. But it was a different story inside. A snake of a line (yes, just one) leading to God knows how many AA counters. It was so long, it was enough to make me pine for the good old days. Despite the inconveniences, however, harassed passengers remained calm and collected as we slowly inched our way to those unseen counters.

Wasn't it just a week ago when one breezed through the airport counter armed with just a ticket number booked several hours or even a few minutes earlier? When carry-on luggage stuffed with razors, nail cutters, nippers and what have you could pass through X-ray machines unimpeded? When one said long goodbyes and got a big bear hug from loved ones before stepping into the tube?

If not for Al Chambers' efforts to arrange a group check-in for the 10 of us, we would have probably waited in line for another hour and still miss our flight. Chambers pinched-hit for program director Kris Mortensen the week terrorist struck.

After a couple of hours and several gate changes, we finally found ourselves inside the airplane. Still, that wasn't the end of it. Ground personnel had to call AA's Dallas office to check if the manifest tallied with the names of people on board. Believe it or not, I felt my beard had grown through it all. At last, we were finally airborne after being stuck inside the plane for nearly an hour.

What was supposed to be a three-hour affair, including check-in and flight time, stretched to more than six. We were only too thankful to reach Atlanta at 4:20 p.m., Eastern Time.

Fear of flying

We had to go through the same process several days later as we flew to Miami. As expected, long lines led to the counters and X-ray machines. The only thing that kept us from waiting for hours was the small number of passengers who bothered to fly. Despite assurances from airport authorities, most Americans are scared to travel. Cars and trains have now become the favorite mode of transportation in a country where air travel has become as routine as a trip to the supermarket. Or should we say *had*?

The fallout from the attack continues to be felt in a thousand other ways. For all we know, the real objective of this crazy exercise is to paralyze the US economy by keeping Americans confined in their homes, terrified and holding on to their dollars. Just two days ago, both American and United Airlines announced their plan to each cut down 10,000 jobs as the number of air travelers continues to plunge. Tourism is down, even in such prime tourist destinations as Miami, Los Angeles, San Francisco and, yes, New York City.

Broadway has closed down several shows due to poor attendance, while a number of hotels and restaurants are nearly empty. Even gay South Beach in Miami has become a shadow of its old self as tourists have shied away. The only businesses making a killing these days are media companies and flag makers. If anything, this disaster has enhanced American unity and patriotism that has resulted in a recent spate of flag-waving and bloodletting. Wal-Mart and other discount stores have run out of Stars and Stripes as Americans of every faith, color and persuasion have snapped up the flag.

Meanwhile, confiscated razors, nail cutters, scissors and spray cans continue to pile up at all check-in counters across the country. Hold on to your... um. It's going to be one bumpy ride.

E-mail the author at enigma0203@yahoo.com

Music in the midst of madness

By Grace Shangkuan Koo, Ph.D.

Terrorist Tuesday has unleashed a wave of unprecedented sorrow and unprecedented music

THE DAY of infamy at New York and Washington has made us realize what extremist religious fanatics could do. It was an expensive lesson, on one hand, on the finiteness of man and his intelligence, and on the other, the inexhaustible deceit in man's heart.

The National Day of Prayer and Remembrance on the Friday after the terrorist attacks on USA was "beauty out of the ashes." A little over 72 hours after the events, people all around the world stood in silence with bowed heads, in somber mood, inside churches and out, making music a welcome companion. Aldous Huxley said it well, "After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music."

At the National Cathedral, Washington, five US presidents and their wives led dignitaries and government leaders to prayer and reflection. The organ sounded the processional with this majestic hymn, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past." Written by Isaac Watts (1674-1748) and William Croft (1678-1727), this song is a paraphrase of Psalm 90, attributed to Moses. Fittingly, this hymn is a grand commentary on time. The third and fourth stanzas read:

Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
O endless years the same.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream
Bears all it sons away;
They fly, forgotten as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

Psalm 90 is a sobering contrast between God's grandeur and eternity against man's mortality and frailty of life. It is a review of the facts of life and death. It contains a poignant prayer we need to say each day, "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." The psalm ends with this comforting blessing: "May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us, establish the work of our hands for us." Even in the brevity of a man's life, his work counts and needs strengthening.

Psalm 23

In his first televised speech to the nation, US President George W. Bush quoted from the Psalms, "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil, for Thou art with me." This psalm of David has brought comfort and confidence for countless people in their personal troubles. So it was a fitting hymn to mourn the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks. It was also selected by the directors of the choirs of the National Cathedral in Washington and the St. Paul's Cathedral in London. The children's voices could not be sweeter than when heard in these acoustically superior cathedrals. There was an irony of the mixture of innocent faces and grim outlook.

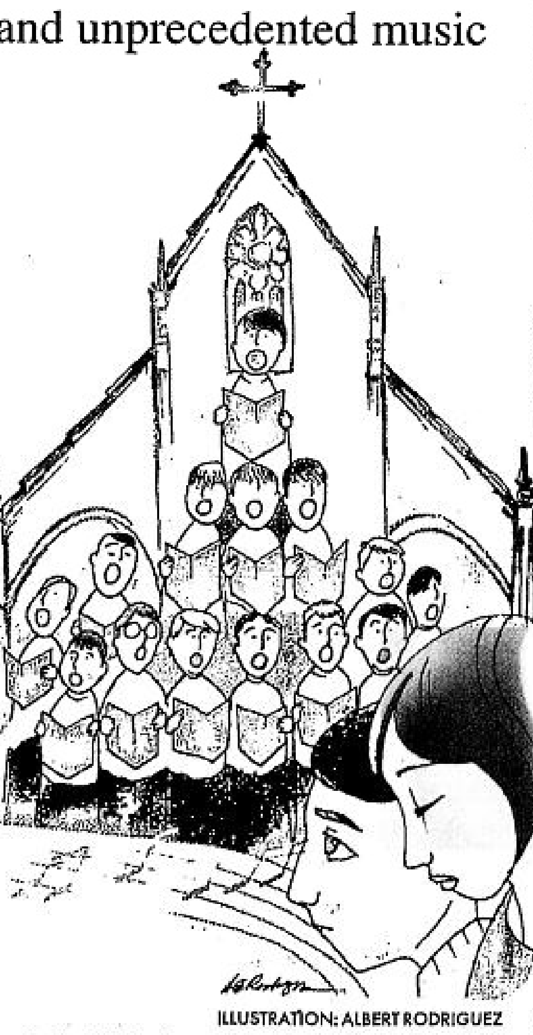


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Psalm 23 is the most popular psalm in choral music. From the top of my head, I can name nearly a dozen tunes written for this intimate psalm. Though the musical interpretations may vary, the message is clear. "Its peace is not escape; its contentment is not complacency; there is readiness to face deep darkness and imminent attack and the climax reveals a love which homes towards no material goal, but to the Lord Himself." (Derek Kidner)

'Hear My Prayer'

The music that I appreciated the most among the choral numbers presented in the varied the services televised was "Hear My Prayer," with music by Henry Purcell, and sung by the St Paul's boys' and men's choirs. This is a short prayer taken from Psalm 102:1—"Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my crying come unto Thee." Under the psalm number in the Scriptures is this subscript: "A prayer of an afflicted man, when he is faint and [as he] pours out his lament before the Lord."

Henry Purcell (1659-1695) was an English composer and organist in the Chapel Royal. His music is difficult and can only be adequately performed by the best choirs. Yet look at the young boys in the St. Paul Cathedral! Though squirming in their seats and in their fancy choir robes, they maintained the nicest lip shapes for singing and blended their voices to a fine performance. This piece by Purcell only took about 2½ minutes to perform, but it could have taken them hours to master. The slow moving, mournful tune responded appropriately to another popular piece played in the preludes of many services—Samuel Barber's "Adagio in Strings."

'Battle Hymn'

There is no question that the most popular music among the many pieces was "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Together with "America the Beautiful" and "God Bless America," the battle hymn inspires patriotism, courage and unity. Written by Julia Ward Howe and music by William Steffe, the hymn starts with snare drums that bring goose pimples to the listeners. Even before the first word is sung, one's eyes will have moistened and throat tightened. The words are not sweet or gentle. The first lines go:

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.

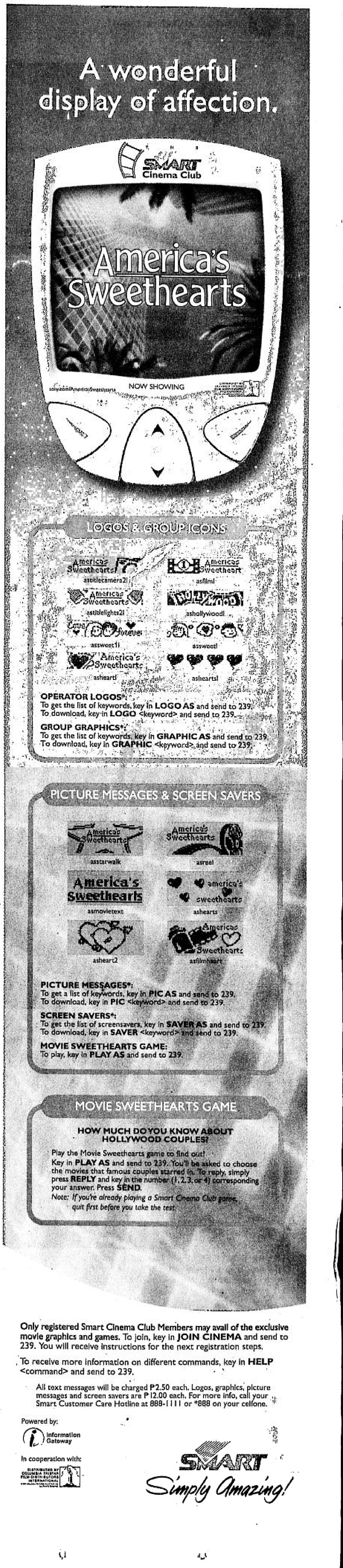
Yet after four verses of fiery words and emotions, the mood changes to a tranquil, *dolce* stanza:

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;
As He dies to make men holy, let us die to make men free,
While God is marching on.

Music, as much as visual images, brings us many steps closer to the tragedy. These days when program producers compile pictures to synthesize the incident, they put in music to describe the emotions of the moment. Because "in music one must think with the heart and feel with the brain." (George Szell)

Music is present in all important life events: birthdays, baptisms, graduations, weddings, anniversaries and funerals. Music helps us feel and express the whole gamut of emotions: sorrow, joy, anger, courage, fear, delight. Music is the only means whereby we feel these emotions in their universality. It is rather ironic that one could listen to good music on television only in such a time as this.

E-mail the author at grace@koo.org or visit www.sunnybrook.net for her previous articles



A wonderful display of affection.

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To get the list of keywords, key in **LOGO AS** and send to 239.
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MOVIE SWEETHEARTS GAME:
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MOVIE SWEETHEARTS GAME

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HOLLYWOOD COUPLES?

Play the Movie Sweethearts game to find out!
Key in **PLAY AS** and send to 239. You'll be asked to choose the movies that famous couples starred in. To reply, simply press **REPLY** and key in the number (1, 2, 3, or 4) corresponding your answer. Press **SEND**.
Note: If you're already playing a Smart Cinema Club game, quit first before you take the test.

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To receive more information on different commands, key in **HELP** <command> and send to 239.

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MICHELLE Shulte

LAUREN Novero won in the Bodyshots competition.

CARLOS Agassi endorses a lot of products.

JONJON Rufino

CHRIS Vasquez

ANTONIO Aquitania, in a barong by Paul Cabral, is a Douglas Quijano talent.

FREDDIE Panicucci owns Linea.

LANA Asanin hosts TV shows.

DOUGLAS Quijano with Zanjo Marudo

New models have staying power

TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

EVERY year, new faces get into the modeling scene, but this year's group looks like it is going to be in the business for many years. Eazel Don graces the covers of weekly and monthly magazines. Lauren Novero and Michelle Shulte have been walking down the fashion ramps after their Bodyshots victories. Chris Vasquez, our favorite Ilonggo model, is embarking on a show-biz career after doing TV commercials and print ads.

So how does one make modeling a longtime career? By maintaining their looks and good skin, exercising, developing a great body and cultivating professional work habits. They can also connect with people who know the business. To name a few: Cal Carrie's **Joey Espino**, fashion choreographer **Robbie Carmona**, dean of talent managers **Douglas Quijano**, and **Freddie Panicucci**, who owns the Linea Uomo and Femme boutiques.

WILMA Doesnt with Harry

MODELS rejoice after a fashion show.

Moreno fine arts and medical scholars awarded

SCHOLARSHIP supporters Nena del Rosario-Villanueva and Elena Fernando

ON THE OCCASION of Imelda Cojuangco's birthday, the founding chair of the J. Moreno UP Scholarship Foundation awarded this school year's scholarships to deserving students of the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts and the College of Medicine.

Some of Cojuangco's friends and supporters of the foundation who helped make the event memorable in the home of Rep. Rene Dragon and his wife Yaying, were Celia Laurel, Corito Araneta-Kalaw, Nelly Gonzalez, Rosita Lesaca, Nena del Rosario-Villanueva, Elena Fernando, Helen Ong, Offie Recto, Alice Briones, Ditas Jalbuena, Crispy Santamaria-Laurel, Dr. Greg Alvior, Fr. Mac Reyes, Dr. Danny David and Dr. Jimmy Lozano.

FINE ARTS. Pitoy Moreno, Yaying Dragon, Celia Laurel, Carlito Amalla, Carlo Tabije, the honoree and scholarship founding chair Imelda Cojuangco, Daniel Gabriel Matutina, Marina Lynn Cruz, Lene Grace Dee, Corito Kalaw, Crispy Santamaria-Laurel and Fr. Mac Reyes

FUTURE DOCTORS. Vinia Mendoza, Jennifer Aquino, Hazel Jane Langcanon, Charlene Oris, Karen Galaites, Sweet Almira Ali, Calvin de los Reyes, Rhoda Franco, Arvin Samson, Merenisa Moti and Leonel Foronda with Meldy Cojuangco (center), Nelly Gonzalez and Rosita Lesaca (second from right and extreme right)

EVER Bilena general manager Siliman Sy, Hanford image model Cesar Montano, RDS president James L. Go, Robinsons Retail Group's Elizabeth Gokongwei, Jag AVP Angeline Siy Feichter, Paperdolls/Dansen general manager Teresita Ong, MM Ortiz Card owner Marlyn Ortiz and Ranvin Marketing president Yolly Barraza

New RDS is scene of shopping siege

RETAIL and show business celebrities recently staged a shopping siege à la "Pearl Harbor" at the new Robinsons Department Store (RDS) at Robinsons Place Metro East located on Marcos Highway corner Imelda Avenue, Pasig City.

They were headed by Robinsons Retail Group's Elizabeth Gokongwei, RDS president James Go, Ranvin marketing president Yolly Barraza, Jag assistant vice president Angeline Siy Feichter, Paperdolls/Dansen general manager Teresita Ong, MM Ortiz Card owner Marlyn Ortiz, Ever Bilena general manager Siliman Sy and Hanford man Cesar Montano. Commanding officer and event host RS Francisco (who came garbed in full battle regalia) gave them instructions to decode the password that would open the doors of Robinsons Department Store.

Bobson image model Ara Mina, Crissa girl Rica Peralejo and Hartmann image model Luke Mejares of South Border entertained the troops.

The RDS Metro East is ready to be stormed by shoppers for their best buys. Other branches are located at Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place (Manila, Novaliches, Imus, Cebu and Bacolod), Tutuban Center, Starmall Shaw, Metropolis-Star Alabang, Waltermart Sta. Rosa and Gen. Trias.

HANFORD image model Cesar Montano receives his shades from RS Francisco.

BOBSON'S Victor Tan, JG Summit Holdings' John Gokongwei, RDS' Robina Gokongwei-Pe, Bobson image model Ara Mina and Bobson's Christopher Tiu

SURESH Mirpuri of Barbizon and Ronnie Mohnani of Gruppo Sachin & Sachin Co.

RONALD Ong, president of Richfield Garments Manufacturing and Teresita Ong, general manager of Westwoon Apparel

ARIEL Rivera, a Filipino-Canadian from Ontario, seranades the audience.

EMILINE Cruz, Mutya ng Pilipinas-Canada, sings Canadian music.

Glimpse of Canada's multiculturalism

MANILA had a glimpse of Canadian culture in a show during Franchise Asia 2001 at the World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

"From Sea to Sea" is a joint project of the Canadian embassy and the Philippine International School of Fashion (PISF). The presentation featured performances by three Filipino-Canadian artists and a mini fashion show of shirts designed by PISF students.

The following Filipino-Canadian artists from Ontario performed: Ariel Rivera of "Asap," Michelle Bayle of the ABS-CBN Talent Center and Emiline Cruz, Mutya ng Pilipinas-Canada 2000.

"This event provided everyone with a glimpse of Canada's multiculturalism and geographical diversity," Canadian Ambassador Robert Collette said. "Students from the PISF have creatively transformed ordinary white T-shirts into fashionable works of art, each one representing one of Canada's 13 provinces and territories."

The shirts were modeled by Canadian, Filipino, Indian, Chinese and Scottish youths to represent Canada's multiracial society.

The fashion school is a joint venture of the La Salle College Group of Canada and St. Scholastica's College in Manila with the assistance of the Canadian International Development Agency's Private Enterprise Accelerated Resource Linkages Project.

PISF is an excellent example of the good work that Canada and the Philippines can do by working together. The Canadian-run fashion school uses Canadian and international technology in fashion design, production and management to train inspired groups of young people in the Philippines. Once graduated, they will assist the national apparel industry in realizing its full potential with top-quality designs, efficient manufacturing and strong marketing concepts to capture the added value of local production.

RICHARD Bale, Canadian senior trade commissioner, joins Filipino-Canadian actress Michelle Bayle on stage.

Facing marriage problems

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I always read your column, and would you believe, an advice you gave to a teenager would also be followed by a senior citizen? For example, my mother, a widow (she is only 43 years old and already a grandmother to my two children, because both of us got married early) is being courted by a man who is separated from his wife. However, my mom is attracted to a widower. They are friends, but there seems to be nothing at all between them. When I suggested to my mom to invite him for *merienda*, etc., she told me, "Oh, no. Tita Dulce says let a man chase you before you catch him."

I am happily married, so it seems, but some differences have come into my life. My husband has a good job but he comes home late often, and so even if I come home late from shopping, it's no problem. The problem is, I recently met my boyfriend in high school and we often meet just to talk about old times. Also, a friend told me recently that he was with my husband during an office party and that a lady was seated beside him all the time. It was his fiancée before we met.

What bothers me is that my husband has now the habit of singing love songs, and when at home, he sits in front of the TV, volume turned down while talking to someone on the cell phone. He stops when I go near. Often, I hear him singing into the cell phone, if not just texting.

How do I meet this problem of "distancing" from me? Is seeing my previous boyfriend wrong? Should I go consult a marriage counselor?

PUZZLED WIFE

Going to a marriage counselor will take several visits before things go right, but yes, you may do so.

However, there is a group you might want to see first. They attend to those searching for help, guidance, enlightenment in the field of spirituality, marriage and family life. The Servants of the Holy Spirit Catholic Community will be holding a Marriage Encounter Weekend Seminar on Nov. 9, 10 and 11 at the La Sallete Center, Silang, Cavite. You and your husband will enjoy that weekend. Just make sure someone will be in your home to look after your children.

Room and board for three days is P2,500. It will be time for the two of you to reflect on your life and share your thoughts. Those who have attended have found it to be a beautiful healing time. A questionaire will be given to you to meditate on. Presentors will be there, and consultants will listen to you.

The seminar is headed by Rev. Fr. Deo Layug, a La Sallete priest. For details and more information, you can call Jerry or Paulette at 926-3002, Ben or Germine at 853-0110, Goy at 927-4415, or Rikki or Gigi 920-0623.

The best time to solve a problem is before it happens. An ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure.

E-mail the author at titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

Universal Children's Day celebrated

UNIVERSAL Children's Day is celebrated in October.

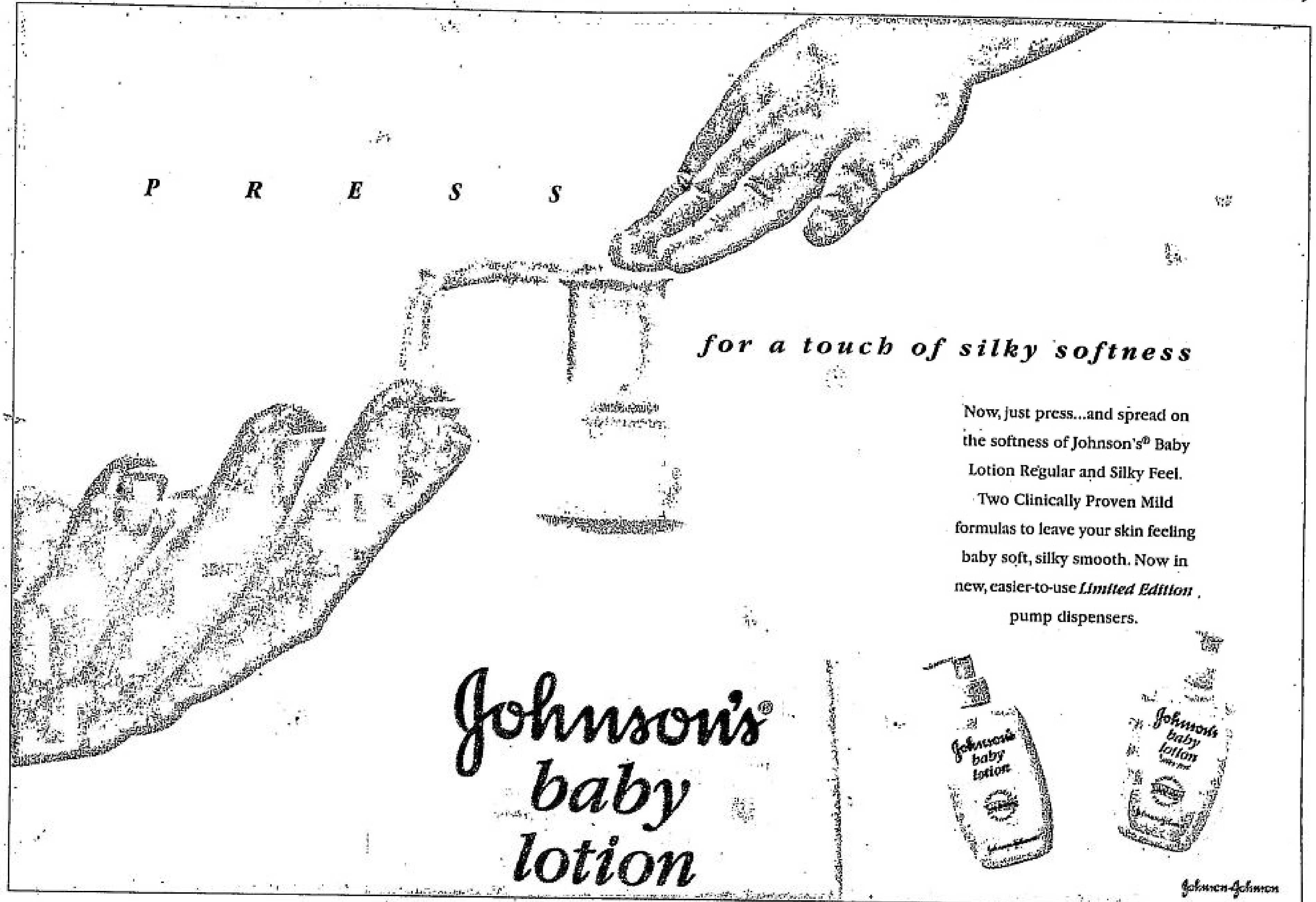
A worldwide Children's Day was first proposed in 1952 by the International Union for Child Welfare. In October 1953, the day was celebrated for the first time under IUCW's sponsorship, with 40 countries participating.

The following year, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution formally establishing Universal Children's Day and assigning to Unicef the responsibility of promoting this day.

In the Philippines, former President Fidel Ramos issued Proclamation No. 267 declaring the month of October as National Children's Month.

Last year, on Oct. 27, 2000, 1,500 children from all over the country convened at Malacañang for the First National Summit on Children. The Council for the Welfare of Children submitted a report on the state of the Filipino children.

The National Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines, the oldest women's organization in the country, celebrates Universal Children's Day every October for the past 10 years by inviting children of the Diplomatic Corps to plant trees at the Luneta Park. On Oct. 6, 2001, some 100 children from the various embassies will again plant mahogany trees at the park.



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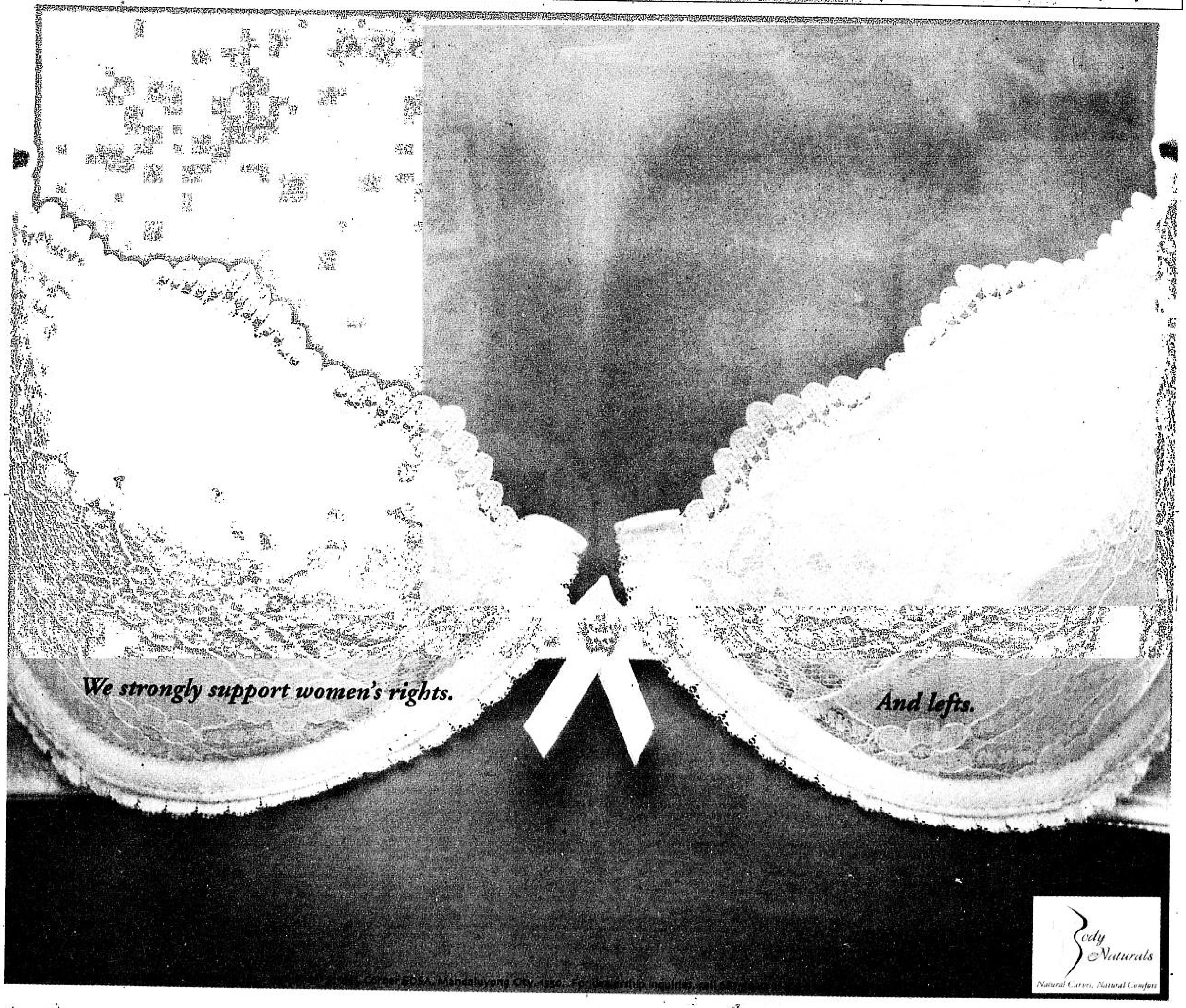
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With New York on my mind

By Jonathan Best

BEING a native New Yorker, I found the World Trade Center disaster horrifying as a public media spectacle and very painful personally.

I was born on the Upper West Side, grew up in a brownstone just off Park Avenue on East 91st Street and lived in Greenwich Village during my college years. My father and grandfather were atheists, my mother an Episcopalian-turned-Roman Catholic, and my aunts, uncles and cousins ran the gamut from Jewish communists to rock-ribbed, republican Protestants—a typical New York City mix.

My first summer job in the late 1960s was at a small maritime museum on Battery Park just a few blocks south of the future site of the World Trade Center (WTC).

That summer, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, developers of the WTC, installed a scale model of the proposed twin towers in the museum lobby as part of a public information and promotional drive. The trade center's design was not popular with New York's powerful culture and liberal arts community. The plan to erect two, 110-story, monolithic white slabs blocking the morning sun on the lower West Side of Manhattan met with fierce opposition.

I was secretly rooting for the project as I have always been a fan of grandiose, futuristic endeavors, but most of my artistic and environmentally conscious friends opposed it.

THE AUTHOR

The WTC was finally built after what seemed like, and probably was, a decade of wrangling among community leaders, designers and politicians. The towers were filled with financial people, stock brokers, option buyers, commodity traders—the types I always pictured commuting to New York from affluent enclaves like Teaneck and Short Hills in New Jersey or from White Plains and Scarsdale in Westchester County. Eventually, residential condominiums were built alongside the towers then a marina and river front promenade were added.

The trade center gradually became a fixture of lower Manhattan and established itself as a genuine New York landmark.

On sunny weekend afternoons, my friends and I would walk down Christopher Street in the West Village to the abandoned West Side piers on the Hudson River. They were popular spots for jogging, sunbathing and hanging out for New York's large gay community. The old piers commanded magnificent views up and down the river from lower Manhattan to the south, the George Washington Bridge to the north and the Jersey Palisades a mile across the river to the west. The WTC anchored the south end of Manhattan. It faced the open harbor with the lovely Statue of Liberty floating gracefully on the shimmering waters in the distance.

First time

At some point in the early 1980s, I visited the trade center for the first time, taking a French friend to the top of the South Tower. We enjoyed a hazy morning view of the city and New York Harbor before taking the obligatory tourist ride on the Staten Island ferry from the southern tip of Manhattan.

Around this same time, the Antiquarian Bookdealers Association of America held its annual book fair on the vast mezzanine level of the North Tower. I can remember riding up the long escalators from the lobby and thinking how tacky the purple carpeting and faux Gothic arches of the lower floors were. I spent hours hunting for Filipiniana books in the dozens of stalls set up by book dealers from all across America and around the world.

In 1985, shortly before I moved from New York for good, a Filipino commodities trader called my partner and me from his office in the trade center. He knew we were involved with the anti-martial law movement and he wanted to tip us off to the rumor circulating in the financial community that Ferdinand Marcos was shipping huge quantities of gold from Manila to Hong Kong. Happily, the end seemed near for the Marcos regime.

Suddenly all these memories came flooding back as I watched the tragedy unfolding last week on the streets of what was once my hometown. As the days pass and the American military reaction to the attack takes precedence over the ghastly images of devastation and the incredible death toll, the sadness and confusion seem to intensify. I am glad I am living far away in Manila, somewhat insulated from the immediate horror of it all.

New York now seems wounded. A natural disaster would have been easier to accept. Earthquakes, fires and floods have always taken their toll on humanity but they are part of the natural order of events, although no less traumatic for their victims I am sure. What raises my anger about the New York killings is the arrogance of the righteous fanatics who carried out the attack. Contrary to the inarticulate and confusing pronouncements coming from Washington, they were certainly not stupid cowards. They were highly motivated true believers, well trained and willing to sacrifice their lives for their beloved God. Like many before them, they were on a holy crusade and totally convinced God was on their side.

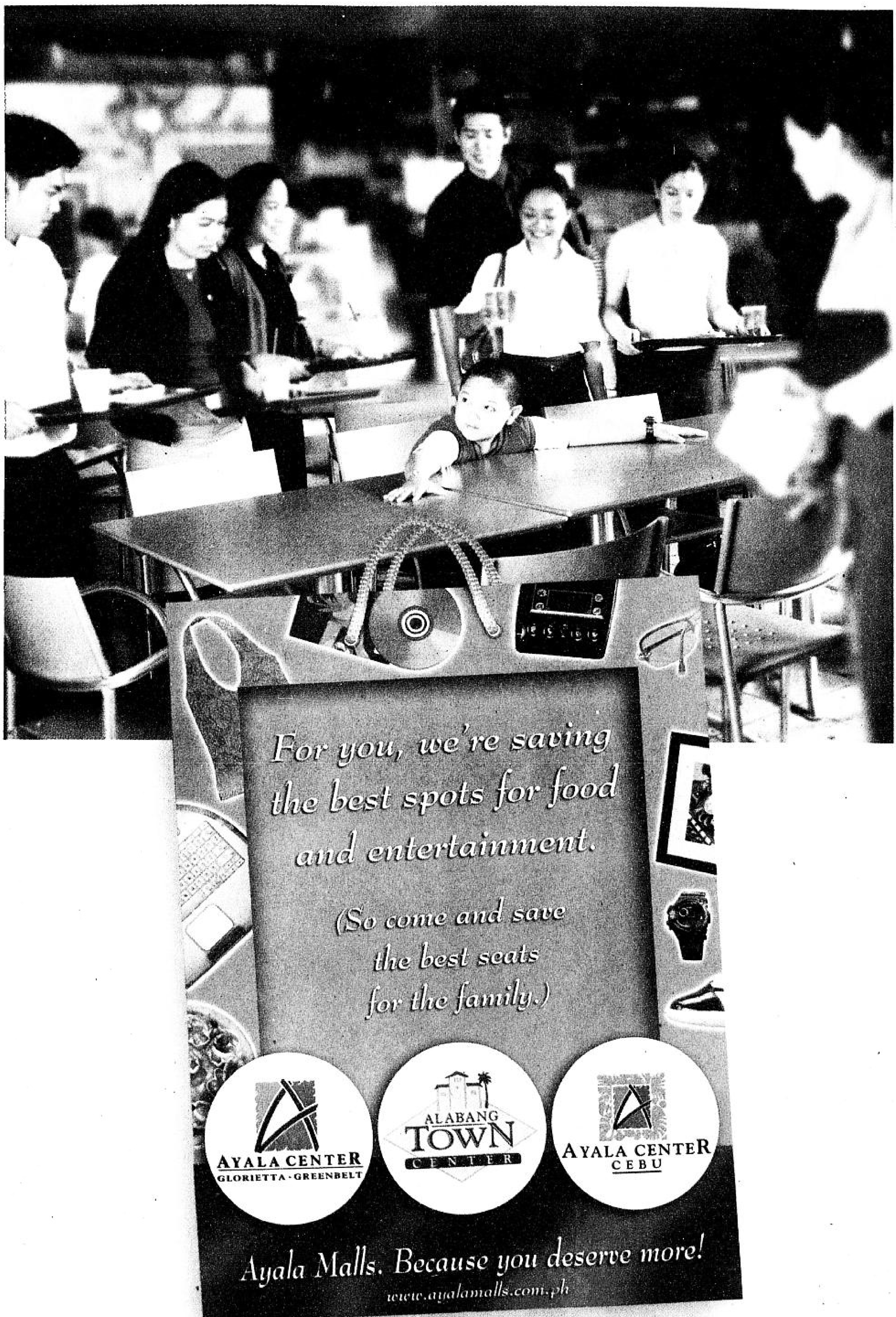
Serious soul searching

This might be a good time for religious people around the world to do some serious soul searching and talk to their children about the dangers of blind faith in the supernatural and the "eternal and unchanging word of God." The voice of God has become a fractious and poisonous clamor of late. If you listen to the virulent dogma being spewed out by Middle Eastern ayatollahs, Hindu nationalist zealots, Zionist rabbis, evangelical Protestant Bible beater, various visionaries, born-again and again and again con artists and reactionary elements in the Roman Catholic Church, you would be amazed.

The proclamation of Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson that their righteous God is now punishing America, New York in particular, for its sins puts them right in league with the gun-toting mullahs of Iran and Afghanistan. Ariel Sharon is not far behind with his maniacal belief that God gave the Jews an absolute mandate to grab the land of the hapless Palestinians, even if the deal was struck 5,000 years ago amid burning bushes and the usual voice from on high.

Back in the mid-'60s when the WTC was being built, the Israelis occupied Muslim Palestine and Jerusalem, a highly sacred site for Muslims, Christians and Jews. Until that situation is peacefully resolved, the killing will just go on and on and on.

New York stands for what I believe to be the best that America has to offer—tremendous diversity with plenty of religious and political freedom. The city is a wonderful combination of high-powered intellectual creativity and the international financial world's dynamism. As a center of secular humanism, it has celebrated cultural, religious, sexual and ethnic diversity since its founding by the Dutch in the 17th century. It will take a long time for the latest wound to heal and for the city to rebuild the shattered financial district but I have no doubt that they will happen. New Yorkers are a tough lot, especially when they are fighting mad.



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Exciting food and entertainment complex opens in Ayala Center Makati, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Center Cebu

As if their offerings were not enough, Ayala Malls have opened more choices in entertainment and food—from fast food to fine dining restaurants—making the Ayala Center Makati, Ayala Center Cebu and the Alabang Town Center the food and leisure capital of the whole country.

Take the Alabang Town Center. It continues to bring malling a breath of fresh air as it opens its New Entertainment Complex this month. Housing four new state-of-the-art movie theatres, it raises the curtains to the first-ever THX cinema south of Manila!

Not content with taking the artform to a higher level, it also elevates the standard of food and fun. Feast on the following: Tatters. Outback. Mann Hann. Gerry's Grill. Auntie Anne's. Pizza Hut. Pancake House. Candy Corner. Or Dusit Thani. Then, have a blast in Time Zone, the Puyat Gameroom, Bowling and Billiards—all found in the same place. And children have real reason to rejoice! Because now it's easier for them to strike away, on kid-friendly lanes that come without canals! Call it Bumper Bowling—another first in the Philippines!

Ayala Center Cebu is not to be left behind. Just recently, it opened its Ayala Food and Entertainment Center. Located North West of the complex, it features an innovative mix of renowned dining establishments and trendy restobars.

Consider Don Henrico's, the wildly-popular pizza and pasta place that has given a fresh Cebuano spin to the American theme restaurant. Bringing a little of Malate to Cebu, there's Ratsky's, which has become known as the bar of the stars. Or the Queen City's biggest Bo's Coffee Club. The Iberian cuisine of Sol Y Luna. The Latin passion for food of Mi Vida. The explosive fusion cuisine of Tequila Joe's. The laid-back Brix Sports Bar with its dart games, chess and billiard tables. Or Bigby's Cafe, if you want to enjoy generous food servings, as its interiors take you all around the world.

But if you don't fancy travel, there are exciting developments too back home. The question is, can the Ayala Center Makati, the leader in lifestyle malls, even better itself? You bet it can!

In the Glorietta 1 cinemas, for instance, the lobby, theatre seats and screens are being refurbished. Each movie house is now equipped with digital sound. Interestingly, this is being undertaken without raising ticket prices...talk about value-for-money!

After the movies, choose from Glorietta 1's buffet of new restaurants. Mangan, which is what happens when Pampanga meets New York. Ten Noodles, a tribute to the great Asian staple. Qing Dao Peking Rouster, about which even the Chairman would've been pleased. And the soon-to-open Tongue Thai, whose name wonderfully says it all! And that's just for starters. Next year, brace yourself for the opening of Gerry's Grill, North Park, Geisha's Wild Bill, Gilligan's Island and Max's Restaurant in what used to be the parking lot between Anson's and Park Square 1—your vehicles for a perfect meal.

But the centerpiece development must be what's going on at Greenbelt.

Already, the premier live entertainment venue in Makati—Onstage—has opened with Gary Valenciano's and Martin Nievera's vocal fireworks.

Pampering services like Piandre and the Spa, specialty outlets like the Organic Market and Holland Tulips, convenience stores like Mercury Drug and bill payment centers, and laundry and dry clean services will soon also set up shop in what is presently called Greenbelt, soon to be renamed Greenbelt 1.

But what will no doubt excite you more is the completion of the whole complex, as there will no longer be just one Greenbelt, but three!

In Greenbelt 2, restaurants will soon rise as the place for successful business lunches, even dates. Imagine having 16 chefs, each opening a restaurant all in the same area! Margarita Fores with Pepato. Fernando Aracama with Uva. Marchus Gfeller with Cafe Moderne. Giorgio Matera with Ostierie Dei Fiori. A new bar concept from dynamic Louie Y. Elbert Cuenca and Ed Calma with their own take on fusion resto. And to cap it all, reliable Gloria Maris and Sugi will definitely spice up the development with an oriental feast.

A new structure altogether will house Greenbelt 3, and be ready to experience cinema like you've never before once its theatre with stadium seats is inaugurated! What's more, this wing will also be replete with gimmick places enough to bring back fun to the Makati workplace. The Bar. Aresi Grill. Firma. Tower Records. Fresh by Nelia Silverio Dee. Twist by Raul Francisco. Techno Marine Watches by Rafael Florencio. And there's more! Larry Cruz. Anton Gonzales. Archie Castillo. A new Filipino bistro by Mantel Nievera and Ricco Ocampo...just some of the names that will call Greenbelt 3 home.

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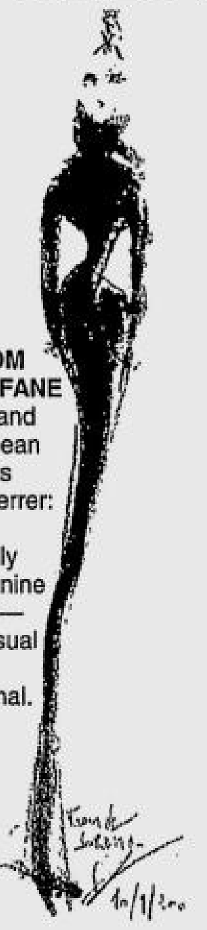
Sunday LIFESTYLE

INNO Sotto seen here with his muses Lizzie Zobel, Margarita Fores, Samantha Eduque and Mandy de la Rama-Santos at a party

T'N'T Trends & Trendings

Despite Taliban ban on immodesty, Paris fashion is unrepentantly sensual

By Anton San Diego



FROM STEFANE Rolland for Jean Louis Scherrer: The totally feminine lady—sensual and animal.

MUST-GO-TO fashion event of the year. Fashion designers in the Philippines are a dime a dozen. Only a few have the creative mettle, stamina, public support, discipline and sheer genius, and one of them is **Inno Sotto**.

Tonight Inno presents his strictly invitational gala fashion show at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. His inspiration is Hollywood glamour—think red carpet during the Oscars. It's also the first time that he has chosen four women as sources of inspiration: **Lizzie Zobel, Margarita Fores, Mandy de la Rama-Santos** and **Samatha Eduque**.

This designer does not need fanfare or new concepts to attract crowds; his clothes and creation speak for themselves. He's a cut above the rest and tonight's show will surely be another feather on

DESPITE/ p.D2

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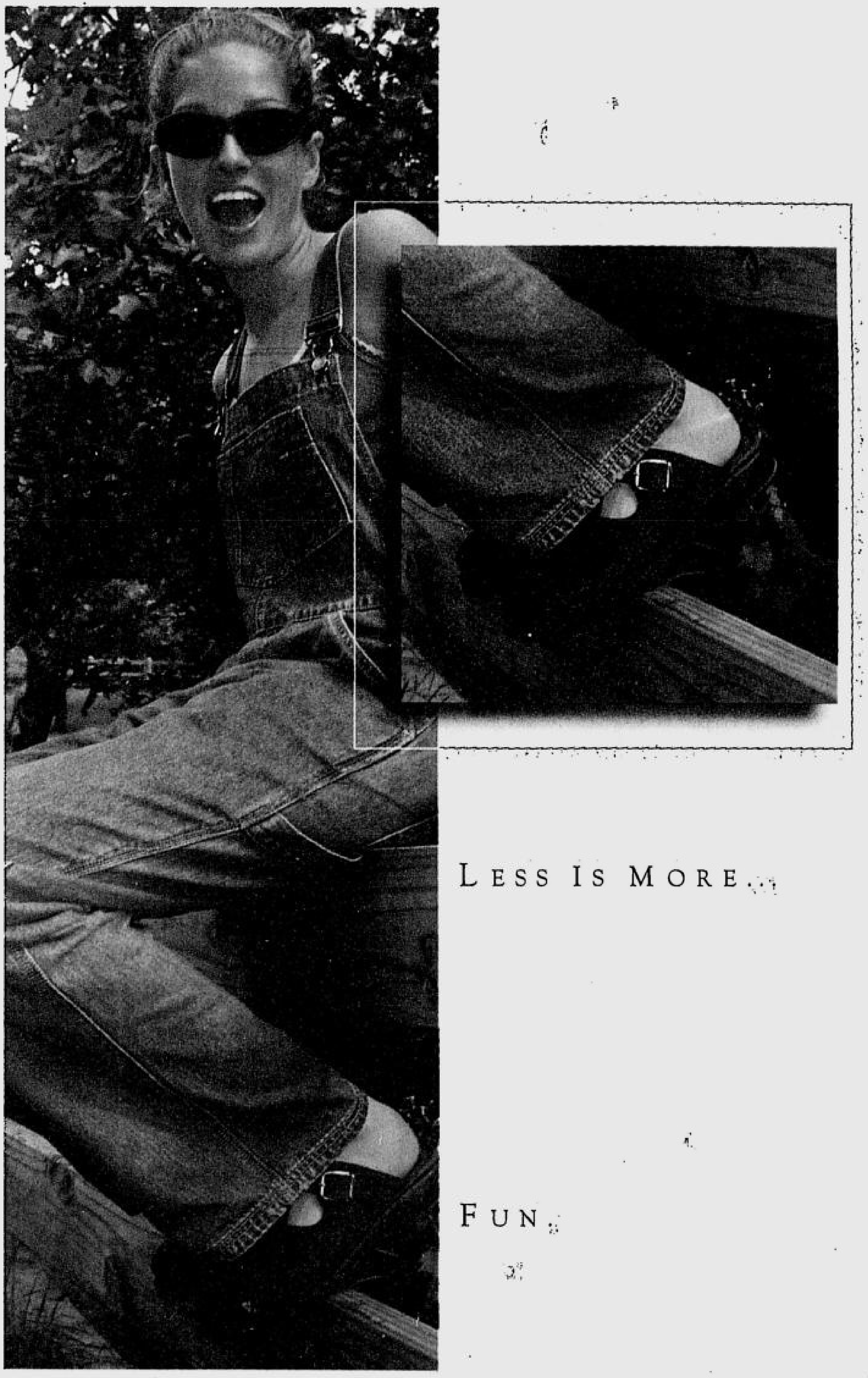

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Fashion worth a priceless pearl

By Kitty Go

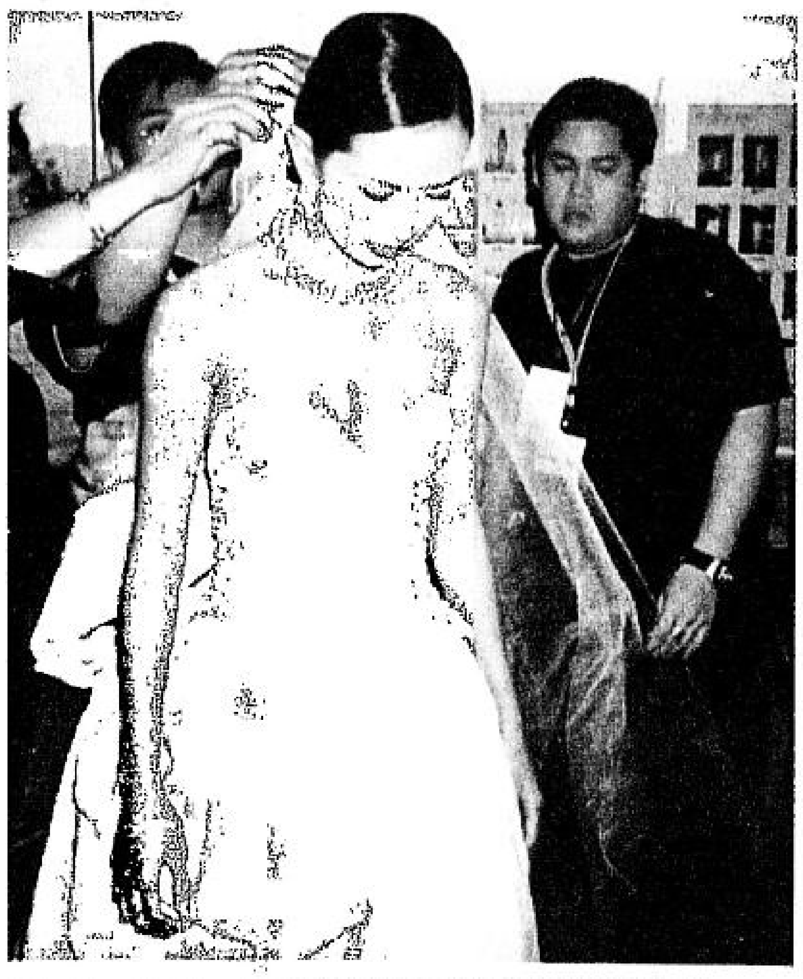
HONG KONG—Last Sept. 23, Jewelmer held a fashion show at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center seeking to orient the international jewelry community with the beauty of the Philippines—its sights, its women, its fashion and of course, its fabled South Sea pearls. "The Ultimate Orient," it was called, but, ultimately, if anything, the show merely highlighted the chasm between traditional and contemporary Philippines.

As a former Philippine magazine editor, I would like to think that I have a clear idea of what the modern Filipina wants. Pearls, especially South Sea ones, are fantastic. Always welcome. However, a fashion show that blended outdated cultural performances and a blurred tourism slide presentation was frightening. But then, the clothes did save the day.

By region

Without a doubt, Jewelmer decided on three of the best names to represent the Philippines in their show at the Hong Kong Jewelry Fair. The three designers had completely different styles, which made them an even better choice to give the world an idea of Filipino style and creativity. Each designer was assigned a region—Katrina Goulbourn did Luzon, Arcy Gayatin, being from Cebu, represented Visayas, and Rajo Laurel did Mindanao.

Katrina Goulbourn's mother Jeanne, the biggest ready-to-wear designer in the Philippines, created a name synonymous with stylish day-to-evening wear. If there is anything Jeanne Goulbourn contributed to Philippine fashion, it is giving busy Filipinas elegant and fashionable choices at reasonable prices. In the early '80s, everyone from clerks to CEOs had to have a *calado* (Philippine cutwork similar to Battenberg lace) piece from the Jeanne Goulbourn collection. Here in Hong Kong, her daughter Katrina reinvented the famous *calado*, in totally modern silhouettes like fitted one-shoulder evening tops, *calado*-trimmed trousers and dog collars.



RAJO Laurel studies what he does best.

At the HK Jewelry Fair, Katrina Goulbourn's show-stopping embroidered long jackets in colorful metallic silk that would have made Mom proud

Her mother may have used *jusi, piña* or even paper-thin organza for her best *calado* pieces, but Katrina took the luxe *calado* look a sumptuous step further with super-soft leather. The very same leather bought by prestigious Spanish fashion house Loewe was cut, curved, marrowed and stitched on by the outstanding, younger Goulbourn. She also showed show-stopping embroidered long jackets in colorful metallic silk. Mommy would have been proud. And surely anyone who could get her body into this new line.

Ease

If there's one thing that describes Arcy Gayatin's style, it has to be ease. From the first collection she showed at Fashion Watch to this capsule collection in Hong Kong, one thing Arcy keeps in mind is comfort. Her collections always have knits or fabrics that move with the body such as crepes cut on the bias. The other big news with this collection was texture—sheer crocheted cotton cobwebs, rayon and cotton plisses, neat horizontal and vertical knife pleats, corduroy and monotone devore.

Arcy's funky ease spilled over into the silver and South Sea pearl jewelry she designed for Jewelmer. Taking away the old-fashioned, "precious" notion of pearls, she created sautoirs nonchalantly draping over the neck like scarves, headbands and chain belts tipped with pearls. She did the classic shape of a five-petal flower in silver with an ingenious cascade of pearl edged stamens pouring out of its center. This design is the most modern piece yet, echoing the direction of many large international jewelry houses like Asprey, Tiffany's, and Bulgari, to update their merchandise.

Rajo Laurel needs no introduction at least to the Philippine market, being the designer of choice for Manila's young society. He will be holding a trunk show here soon hoping to bring his same youthful elegance so popular in Manila to Hong Kong's young society. Not being a bridal aficionado myself (having to do Preview bridal issues every year gave me a headache) and knowing that there is life beyond Rajo's bridal wear, as I and a waiting room full of women can attest, I asked Rajo with a sneer, "Everything is bridal?" "Of course," he said cheerfully, "That's what I do best, remember?" Ah yes, at least the boy knows his strength.

Love affair

Rajo's love affair with the Middle East and East Asia has not died. As much as he is known for simple lines that highlight usually a reed-thin, perfectly turned out society bride, he did have elaborate ensembles like a djeballah-inspired tunic set perfect for Arabian Nights. Rajo is known for his elegant, uncluttered look, but he equally excels in luxe and stylish flamboyance with an entrance making and equally grand exit making organza evening shirt over a full long skirt with a gold lame stamped bustle.

Black may be the easiest color to wear and is the most fashionable color this fall. But to me, black is always boring. In the tropics it makes you feel hotter and in temperate zones it makes you feel and look drearier than a crow on a snow-covered plain. There is nothing more flattering than color (or white, as designer Michele Sison advises) next to your face. Clearly, the three designers felt the same. Katrina Goulbourn chose unusual yet rich shades of midnight blue, mustard, olive and flame red. Arcy Gayatin went with nothing but textured white and off-white. Since his was mostly a bridal collection, Rajo showed embellished white and off-white save for the occasional lavender and gold.

RAJO Laurel's *djeballah*-inspired tunic. The ropes of pearls in the foreground were used as a headpiece.

RAJO Laurel's entrance maker. The comb that tops her chignon is gold and pearls.

PILING it over Katrina Goulbourn's *calado* evening top.

ARCY Gayatin's idea of a modern evening look

GOULBOURN'S group getting ready

Despite Taliban ban on immodesty, Paris fashion is unrepentantly sensual

(From page D1)

his cap. Congratulations, Inno!

Spring/Summer Paris 2002 Collection—"Avant Premiere." With Paris being threatened with biological warfare and terrorism by **Osama Bin Laden** and his group, the city's designers are threatening women all over the world with bare-all sensuality. This is Spring/Summer 2002 dress code from the French pros namely Valentino, Ungaro, Scherrer, Rykiel, Mugler, Torrente, Lacroix, to name a few. Here's a glimpse of what's appearing on the ramp next year *(See sketches)*. They're bound to make any Mata Hari wannabe wobble in their knees. Proof that when the going gets rough, the tough get going. Which is what every *directrice de cabine* has to say to every model about to do her catwalk. "Smile girls, don't pout, times are **really** hard!"

I can't get through October without... Getting a copy of "Images," a coffee-table book done by the fantastic makeup stylist **Patrick Rosas** and equally fantastic photographer **Jun de Leon**. Watch out for the book's launch on Oct. 10 at the RCBC Building... The opening of the Greenbelt Mall, which I hear will be soon. I heard that fantastic chefs like **Billy King**, Margarita Fores and **Markus Gfeller** are having their own restaurants there... Checking out Malate's new bar, Fidel. It will be a French-style bistro with some Moroccan food on the menu, while the second floor will be a lounge... Going to bazaars... Congratulating **Rajo Laurel** on his fashion show... Catching the movie "The Fast and the Furious" and "America's Sweethearts"... Getting the new fashion magazine Spruce from the makers of Wallpaper.

Another magazine in the dust! Mademoiselle, the magazine for women that has survived 60 years, is closing down. Its November issue with "Felicity's" **Kerri Russel** on the cover will be its last. Conde Nast publications has announced the closure, citing the current economic conditions. Newsstand sales were down by 20 percent and the all-important ad pages were down 19 percent.

Bistro anniversary. Bistro 110, the popular hangout in Legaspi Village, is celebrating its third anniversary with a strictly invitational concert on Oct. 11. No less than popular group Side A will be performing.

Diary of Constance Brooke San Lorenzo Pendleton: "Tea and sympathy." This week, our favorite Mare and socialite turns advice queen to her fans who have lost their way.

Dear Constance,

I have been following your column, and I must say I am your No. 1 fan. I have some questions to ask. How do you resist temptation? Like how do you say no to that last piece of chocolate cake or making a fool of yourself when you like someone.

Tempted,
LULU

Do I know you? I must admit that I am bit a surprised at your question. From my columns, I would have hoped that you would have gleaned a little bit about my philosophy about life. So I must ask you, why would you want to resist temptation? In my experience you have to go for what you want and if it's something you desire, well, honey, all bets are off! Do not say no to that last piece of chocolate cake. There is always liposuction, or if you're one of those motivated (read: anal) types, you can always go to the gym and work out. If you like someone, run—don't walk—after him! Remember, the only time you make a fool of yourself when you are running after someone is when that someone is ugly. Then you simply look like a pig in heat. Just say yes, Lulu, and be happy.

I am a 55-year-old woman who just started ballroom dancing. I noticed that most of the women who go ballroom dancing like to dress young. I would like to do so as well. You know, go for that J. Lo look. Any tips?

DANCING QUEEN—IN WAITING

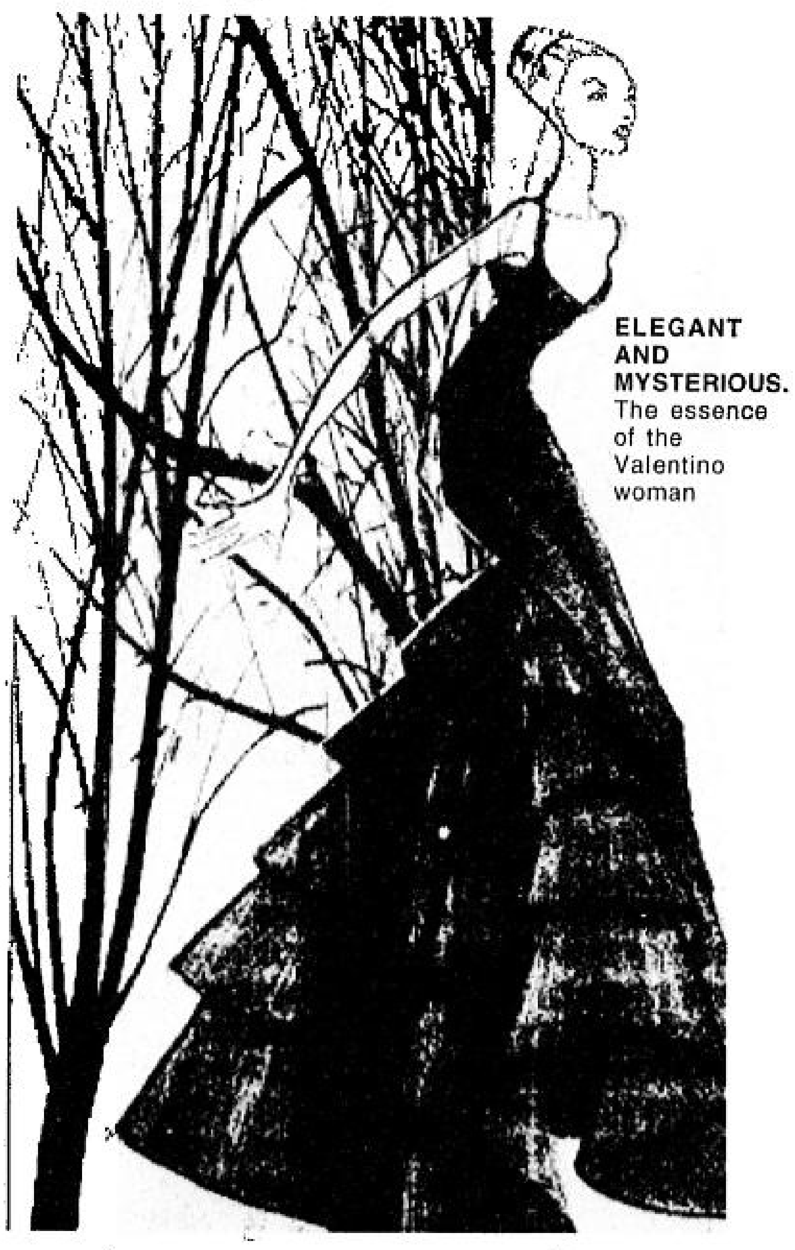
My poor darling, first of all, ballroom dancing has to be one of the most pathetic excuses for passing time. What ever happened to the art of conversation or reading a book? When was the last time you went to a dinner party and actually had a good conversation about a book you were reading? Don't you think there are far more interesting things to do than spend tons of money to have some yokel spin you around the dance floor so you can pretend that you are simply getting your exercise? Remember, my darling, that by doing so, you neglect to exercise your mind and that, more than anything else, is our strong point at this stage of our lives.

As to trying to look like J. Lo because everyone else is trying to do so, well, our other strong point is elegance—that is our revenge on the young. Elegance means Jimmy Galanos gowns, Lucien Pellat-Finet cardigans and the way one carries oneself. It does not mean trying to compete with younger women in the clothes that they look beautiful in. Part of our strength dear, is knowing when and where to compete and when to leave the field. If everyone decided to wear cute little piggy outfits or look like a mare with a penchant for dressing up in costumes, would you do so? Trying to look like J. Lo at your age (and, I'm sure, heft) is like Custer's Last Stand, a lost cause.

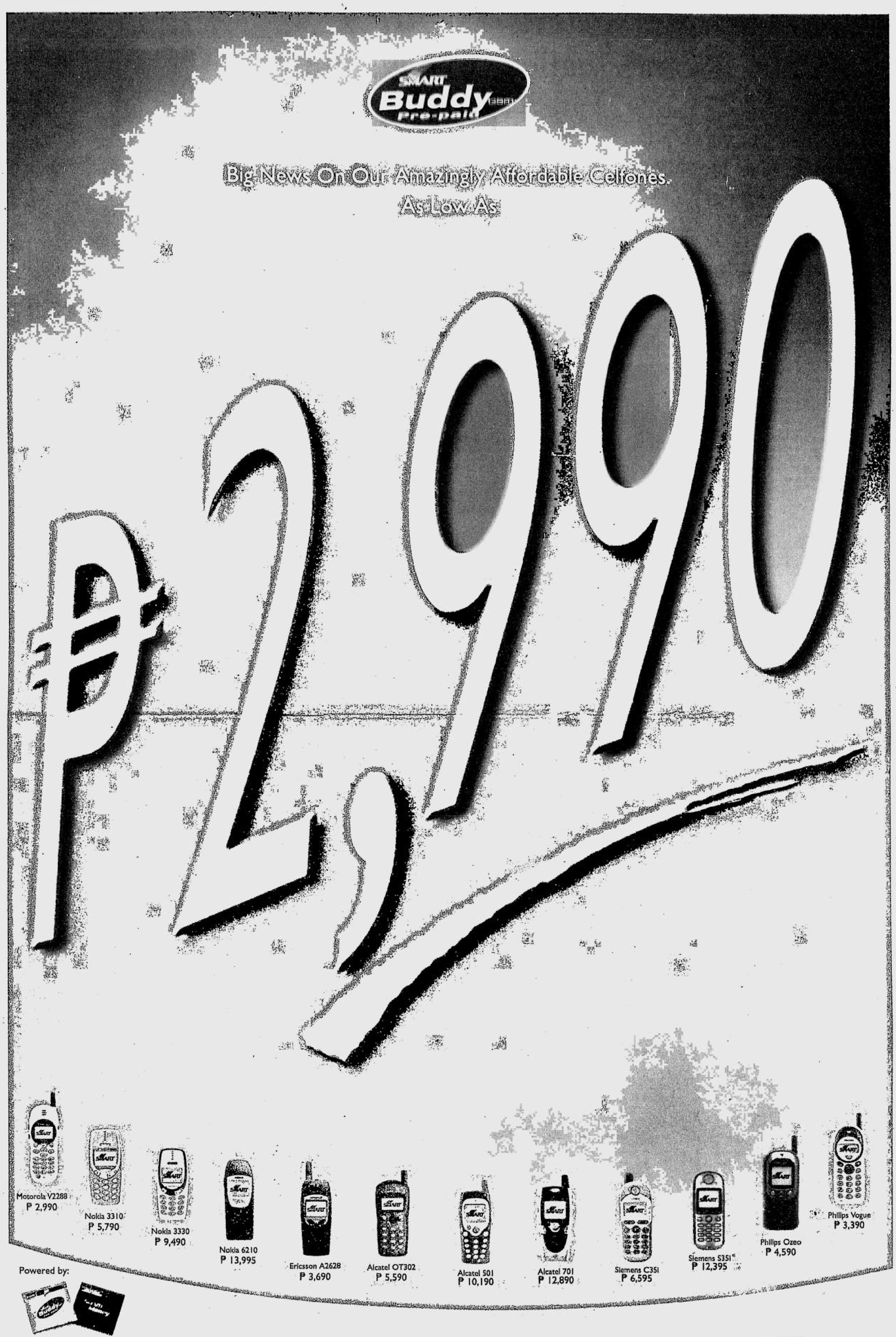
And don't tell me that all your friends-DIs tell them that they look beautiful in their J. Lo outfits. Face it, honey, they remind you of the song "June is Busting Out All Over." Use your eyes. And if you started exercising your brain, you would look like a million dollars even if you don't. Think about it. See the light and get back to earth.

If you have any questions for dear old Constance, please e-mail her at cblpendleton@yahoo.co.uk.

E-mail the author at asd_world@ hotmail.com



ELEGANT AND MYSTERIOUS. The essence of the Valentino woman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Cebu doctors 'called' to a wedding

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

AJAY Suchoski and **Cynthia Amante** were married at the St. Therese Parish in Lahug one sunny Saturday morning. Both of them are medical doctors. Cynthia is the daughter of **Manuel Amante II** and Dr. **Victoria Amante**, while Ajay is the son of Dr. **John Suchoski** and **Consuelo "Ging Ging" Unchuan Suchoski**.

Rev. Fr. **Emmanuel Non, S.J.** officiated at the nuptial Mass. Main sponsors were close relatives of the couple—**Benito Unchuan, Wilbur Amante, Rosario Caro Agustines** and **Buenaventura Javier**. **Josephine Amante del Prado** was matron of honor, while **Gerry Suchoski** was his brother's best man.

The bridal entourage consisted of **Angeli Mae Amante** as bridesmaid, **Charles Unchuan**, groomsman; **Diego del Prado**, ring and coin bearer; and **Dasha Toledo**, flower girl. Secondary sponsors were Dr. **Patrick Yamba** and Dr. **Cherish Songco**, candles; Dr. **Pelagio Yusingco II** and Dr. **Joanne Valencia**, veil; **Federico del Prado** and Dr. **Joanne Cosin**, cord.

Participating in the offertory procession were Dr. **Junaldin Pumbaya**, Dr. **Pamela Tarongoy**, Dr. **Edwin Medalle Jr.** and the bridegroom's lovely grandmother Doña **Luz Alfonso de Unchuan**, who carried the bread and wine. Doña Luz was more involved in the wedding preparations, supervising days before the making of the family's specialty—*tocinos del cielo*—served in great profusion at the dessert table during the brunch that followed at the Cebu Country Club.

Viring Romoff was showered with praises for the gown she designed for Cynthia. Who got the bouquet the bride tossed to a bevy of pretties? None other than statuesque **Debbie Dizon**, which seemed to confirm the persistent buzz that she is indeed the next bride. And the lucky guy is… He is listed among the dramatis personae above but we'll wait for the proper announcements.

Ajay and Cynthia will make their home in Cebu for now. Meanwhile, his parents, John and Ging Ging, have left for Seattle to visit their other children. They plan to return in early 2002.

* * *

Visiting Cebu recently was the Ambassador of Austria, Dr. **Christian Krepela**, who came with his pretty wife **Imgard Krepela**. They were honorees at a beautiful party hosted by Austria's honorary consul general in Cebu, **Arcadio "Dodong" Alegrado**, and his gracious wife **Marle Montalban Alegrado**, at their home in Maria Luisa Estate Park, which boasts of a dazzling view of the city.

Cebu City's dashing Vice Mayor **Michael Rama** led the prominent guests who were welcomed by Dodong and Marle's children—**Jovy Alegrado** and **June Alegrado Ugarte**, who was responsible for the magnificent spread that gave a taste of what to expect from her latest venture, with partners **Iris Arcenas** and **Grace Lerma**—the authentic Spanish restaurant Sol y Luna. The restaurant opened next evening at Ayala Center. Ambassador and Ms Krepela were among the guests, of course.

Two VIPs were collecting congratulations at the Alegrado party: Dodong's sister **Inday Fe Alegrado**, who was inducted recently as president of Women in Travel Cebu; and city's current No. 1 portrait and landscape artist, **Adeste Deguilmo**, who came with his wife **Lavie**. Adeste received a grant from the Austrian government last year to spend several months in Vienna and learn its culture. The result was a recent one-man show at the Cebu CAP Art Center that had collectors snapping up his scenes of Vienna and Cebu.

* * *

Bayani Carlos Reyes and his very pretty wife **Virgie Almeda Reyes**, hosted a ball to mark the 18th birthday of their daughter **Leslie** at the Cebu Plaza Hotel. For the occasion, **Stephanie Gruet** filled the ballroom with yellow roses and white and pink carnations dyed green.

Felix Yu made Leslie's beautiful diaphanous dress, as well as her mom's and sister's, **Sheila Reyes**. With Cebu City councilor **Joy Pesquera**, Vice Mayor **Mike Rama** rushed from the Austrian ambassador's party and joined the liveliest table at the party.

Laughter constantly filled the table of **Connie Ramas Revilles, Jose Maria** and **Rafaelita Golez, Thelma Roa Rama, Myra Gonzalez y Osmeña, Margot Gonzalez de Larrañaga, Lawrence** and **Eva Rama Osboldstone**. Some of them were among those asked to light the 18 candles cum birthday wishes by the evening's articulate toastmasters—**Jackie Buenaventura** and **Luigi Sanchez**.

But the party was mainly for the young. Leslie's best friends had their roles as the 18 treasures, with friendship being the best treasure one can have. Among them were **Jamie Evangelista, Stephanie Santiago, Ma. Niña Abad, Ronna Rojas, Kathleen Borromeo, Melissa Pacana, Susan Fortich, Vanessa Torres, Gieselle Catacutan, Gizela Salimbangon, Sveva Pacana, Guinevere Echavez, Mae Entero, Erica Alegre, Michelle Alfonso, Elaine Yap, Carmille Golez** and **Valerie Alvez**.

The 18 roses were presented to Leslie by **Derrick Yap, Eduardo Rama II, Jose Mari Almeda, Wayne Pastrano, Lee Pastrano, Joshua Gruet, Justin Go, John Paolo Base, Edward Short, Jonathan Ybañez, Jonathan Dionson, David Dionson, Herman Dionson, Napoleon Rama II, Alfonso del Prado, James Rama** and **Antonio Lozada**.

* * *

It is a coup of sorts for the Arts Council to bring the world-famous Czech Suk Chamber Orchestra for a concert in Cebu at 8 p.m. on Oct. 20 at the ballroom of the City Sports Club. Arts Council president Petite Garcia is out of the country but she left vice presidents **Maxwell Espina** and **Vivina Yrastorza**, plus **Francis Onglatco**, event chair, in charge.

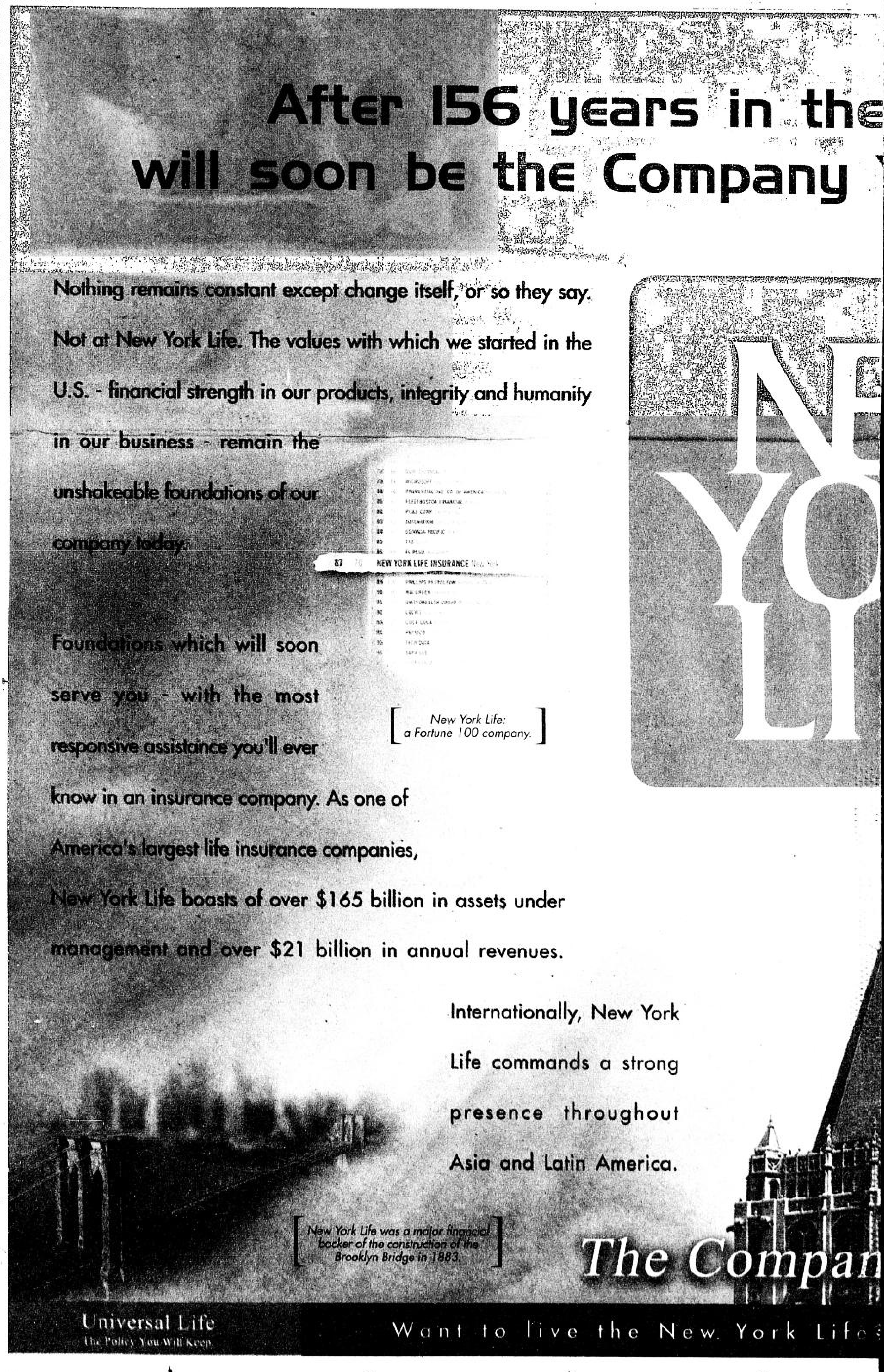
This is the Suk's only performance in the Philippines. It will be flown directly to Cebu from Hong Kong by Cathay Pacific (it has daily flights) with violin soloist **Jue Yao**. The Ambassador of the Czech Republic, **Stanislav Slavicky**, will be arriving from Manila on Oct. 19 to inaugurate an impressive photo exhibit about the heritage of Prague at Casa Gorordo.

The Suk Chamber Orchestra will play the complete Serenade for Strings Op. 22 by **Antonin Dvorak**, and the four concertos that comprise **Antonio Vivaldi's** Four Seasons—Primavera, L'estate, L'autonno and L'invierno, in their proper order. People will be coming from all over the Visayas and Mindanao for this beautiful musical event. The orchestra is named after **Josef Suk**, the famous Czech composer who married the daughter of Dvorak. It is just possible that his namesake and grandson, **Josef Suk**, regarded as one of the best violinists in the world today, will come with the ensemble.

AUSTRIAN Ambassador Christian and Imgard Krepela, Marle M. Alegrado and Austria's honorary consul general in Cebu Arcadio Alegrado

SHEILA and debutante Leslie Reyes with their parents Bayani and Virgie Reyes

RADIANT COUPLE. Doctors Cynthia and Ajay Suchoski



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To travel, perchance to dream

BY JOHN AGUILAR

IF someone were to tell me that I would get a chance to travel through Asia for free and see the Great Wall of China, tour the Taj Mahal and other wonders of the world, be part of a "reality TV" series that would make me an instant star, plus get a 50-percent chance to win a Ford Explorer just by submitting a 400-word essay on why I want to travel, I would have to say that person was either playing a very elaborate trick on me, or was just totally insane. Yet this was the very reason I met up with the people behind Team Journeys, the newest dotcom to captivate every adventure-seeker's imagination this side of the planet.

I first heard of www.teamjourneys.com from a friend who was talking about this new Philippine website/contest which offered contestants a chance to embark on a two-month all-expenses-paid trip around Asia just by submitting a 400-word essay on "Why I want to travel." Among the thousands of applicants, 20 lucky individuals would be chosen to undergo seminars and survival training courses in Sagada and Subic. This would serve as the basis by which the final eight members of the two teams would be chosen. These two teams—Team Mayon and Team Pinatubo—would then get a chance to tour six countries in Asia for free, with pocket money to boot. But this isn't all: members of the team with the most money left over after the two-month trip would each bring home a Ford Explorer Sport Trac (convertible to cash—a cool P1.3 million).

THE PEOPLE behind Team Journeys

'Lonely Planet' meets 'Survivor'

The concept is not one which readily sinks into any level-headed person's mind. After all, how can something so good be so, well, free? Fevi Yu, team leader and founder of Team Journeys, explains that the concept of the website was born out of her desire to be a travel journalist, in the mold of Ian Wright and Megan McCormack, hosts of the Discovery Channel's travel program, "Lonely Planet."

"I think everyone, especially in my profession, wants to be like them, to be able to write and travel for free," she says. This was the reason Uy decided to take a giant leap of faith. She quit her job as an associate editor, pooled people from various professions whom she knew and worked with in the past, pitched her idea to sponsors, and put her concept into the fastest-growing medium today, the Internet. On March 31, 2001, Team Journeys was born.

As of this writing, more than a thousand aspiring travelers have submitted their essays. Anyone between 18-55 years old can join, provided they pay P100 for the application forms, which are available at any Shell Select outlet. Netizens can also log on to the website (www.teamjourneys.com) for the rules and regulations, as well as alternative ways to submit their essays.

Those who make the final eight are in for a ride that would probably change the rest of their lives. Apart from the free travel and the novelty of having to experience everything with total strangers, the whole trip is actually going to be shown live via webcasting on the Internet. That's real-time (no scripts, no cuts) live action wherever they are, whatever they're doing, for 12 hours a day. To top it off, the whole journey will actually be shown on primetime TV like the reality TV series "Survivor." It seems too good to be true—almost like a fairy tale waiting to be exposed—but Yu is confident that everything will come together as the deadline approaches, which has been moved from August 2001 to Feb. 16, 2002.

Will work for food

In the meantime, Yu and company are busy preparing for the logistical nightmare of taking eight complete strangers and two separate production teams on a two-month tour of Asia. A total of six countries (China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Nepal and India) will be on the itinerary of the adventure-seekers, with each country having its respective drop-off point (the first being China's Great Wall) where the two teams will be left to fend for themselves, to take in as much of what the country has to offer.

The fact that the two teams will have to scrimp on their shoestring budgets for the chance to win those Ford Explorers will definitely make the journey worth watching. Yes, every dollar saved counts, which is why the two teams can do pretty much anything they want to save up or earn extra cash. Imagine pulling a rickshaw on the streets of Bombay for a few extra rupees, or waiting on tables in a little Shanghai restaurant to earn your food. And in case you're getting any zany ideas, they cannot do "that thing you do" in Bangkok's red light district for instant board and lodging. This is primetime TV, and a GP rating is what the organizers are going for, no matter how much of the "culture" one is tempted to imbibe. The shirt off your back is the only thing team members are allowed to sell.

Criteria

One need not be a literary genius to come up with a 400-word essay on why you want to travel. "We're actually looking for their motivation to travel more than anything else," says Yu. The essay can be written in English, Tagalog, or a combination of both. The important thing, according to Yu, is to be sincere in what you write, since the team in essence will be composed of not just travelers but "ambassadors of goodwill."

After all, the vision of Team Journeys is to "bring the world closer together." Be it through the wonders of webcasting or reality TV, one thing is for sure. You can definitely bring the world closer to you with a brand-new Ford Explorer.

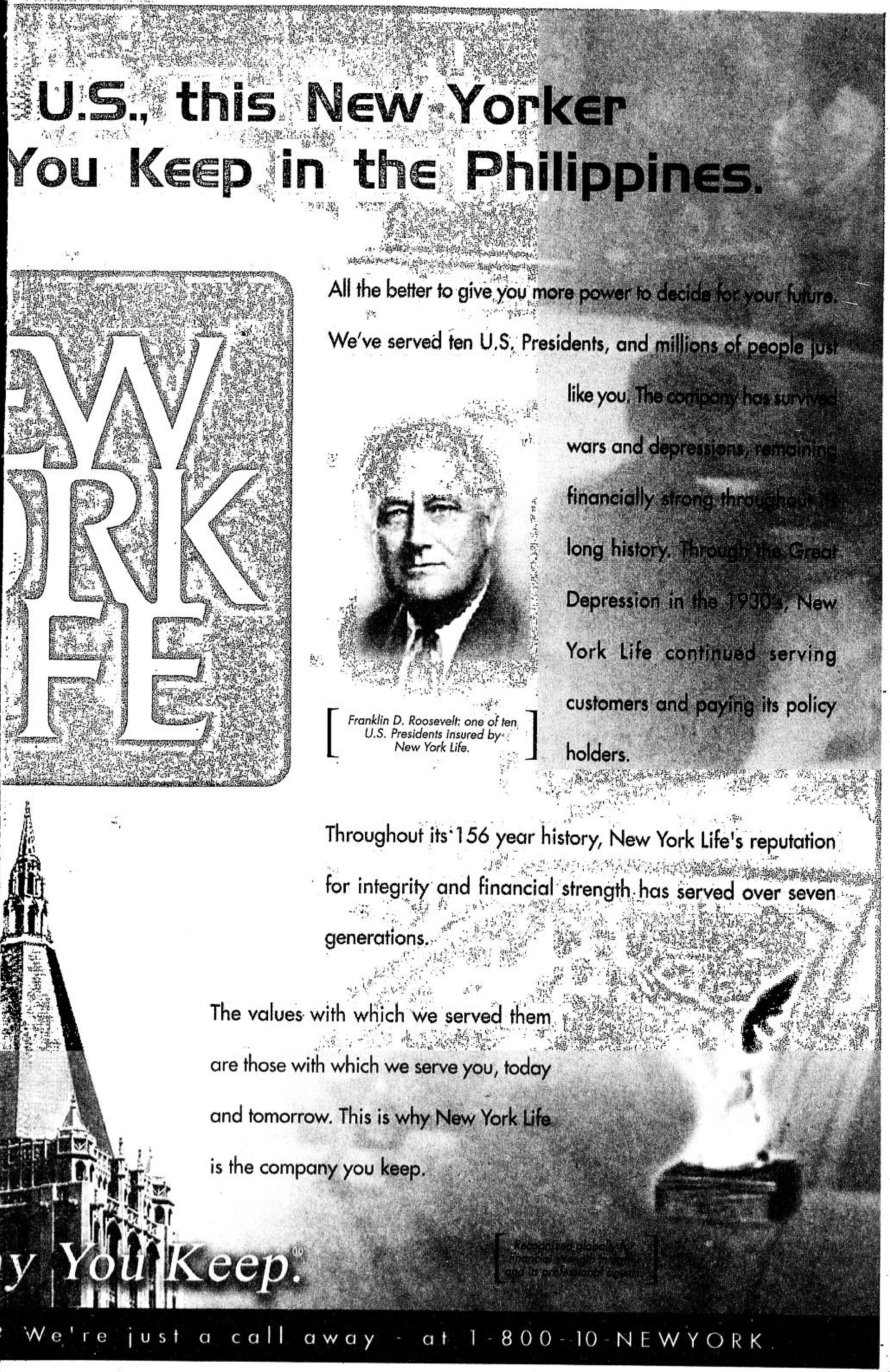
E-mail the author at johnaguilar@edsamail.com.ph.

Theresians HS Class '78 'Goes Nostalgic'

ST. Theresa's College Manila's High School Class of 1978 invites the public to "'78 Goes Nostalgic," an evening's entertainment featuring the live music of the popular Spirit of '67 Band. The shindig will be held on Oct. 10, at 8:30 p.m. at the 8th Day Bar & Café located at St. Francis Square, Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

The opening act will feature vocalists Louannne Cuenco and Bobby Ramiro, Elise Goloy-Cortez, and the special participation of Something Special.

Tickets will be sold at the door at a cover price of P450. Call Tess Gojar at 890-2824.



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A spring wedding at the historic Carmel Basilica

THE HISTORIC Carmel Basilica forms a dramatic background for newlyweds Gina and Serge Abaya

CARMEL in California is probably one of the most romantic places in the world—a picturesque beachside community made famous by its former mayor, actor Clint Eastwood.

Gina Abaya, daughter of Mr. and Ms Antonio Abaya, and Sergie Arroyo, son of Mr. and Ms Eduardo Arroyo, chose the historic Carmel Basilica for their wedding for sentimental reasons: They had their first photo taken as a couple by Carmel Beach. Four years later, this same photo was reproduced in a small book of love quotes as their giveaway.

The historic church dates back to 1771 founded by Fr. Junipero Serra. When he died in 1784, he chose to be buried there and Pope John XXIII declared Carmel a minor Basilica during his US visit in 1985, the same year Fr. Serra was beatified.

It was a lovely spring day for the wedding and the over a hundred guests, many of them had flown in from Manila—congregated at the church patio abloom with flowers. Gina arrived on her father's arm (columnist Tony Abaya), radiant in an elegant gown of lustrous Indian silk, the color of champagne. A creation of Patis Tesoro, the beige gold theme was carried by the gowns of the mothers of the bride and groom and the bridesmaids.

The wedding was traditional Filipino with the sponsors mostly family and close friends of the family: Catalina Chaves, Fely Abaya, Gloria Gustilo, Monching Abaya, Peter Arroyo and Benjie Aragon. Carla Abaya, in a beige pantsuit, assisted her sister as maid of honor and the two sisters of the groom, Katha and Ava, were the pretty bridesmaids. Flower girls Melissa Morada and Marty Chaves Verano wore dainty gowns by Anne Chaves. The little boys were Justin Peterson and the Lopez boys.

Due to restrictions in church decor imposed by the Basilica, only two huge floral bouquets adorned the altar and giant *sinamay* bows marked the pews: it gave the church an elegant ambiance in its simplicity matching the solemnity of the marriage rites. After the church ceremonies, the happy couple walked out to a flurry of flitting butterflies released by the guests.

Everybody then drove to Monterey Plaza Hotel, passing by scenic 17 Drive where the famous Pebble Beach is located. Cocktails were served at the terrace overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the music of a string ensemble punctuated by the crashing of the waves and the honking of the sea lions. The party moved inside the Dolphin room and went into high gear when the emcees waxed nostalgic and businessman Jun Arroyo heartily welcomed Gina to the Arroyo-Valderrama clan. Then the dancing to disco music began with practically everybody on the dance floor to the delight of the couple and their parents.

"Such a wonderful and enjoyable wedding," most of the guests commented. Champagne flowed and the guests did a spirited chorus line kick to the upbeat tune of "New York, New York" as a fitting finale. Gina and Serge now make their home in San Francisco.

Some of the guests included the grandmother of the groom, Mary Cabral Arroyo, and daughter Zeny Cabral, Marietta Santos, Sylvia Ibazeta and daughter Baba, Dr. and Ms Rodolfo Sotto, Norma Regidor, Leo and Marlene de Guzman, Lita Carlos, Alan Klaum, Vic Santiago, Buyong and Carmen Gaston, Zeny and Dominic Caro, Jun and Geraldine Valderrama, Tim Valderrama, Kenneth and Noelle Valderrama, Dr. Lucila Bernardo and husband, Kathy Yulo, Mr. and Ms Freddie Pacho and Carmita Francisco.

WITH THEIR parents Cheding and Jun Arroyo and Marica and Tony Abaya

KATHY Yulo, Carmita Francisco and Elit Pacho with Marica Abaya

Pregnant teen hesitates to accept marriage proposal

LOVE NOTES

Joe D' Mango

DEAR Joe,

I'm 16 years old and two months pregnant. I'm not married and my boyfriend Miles just dumped me for another girl. He isn't even aware of my condition. I'm not even sure if he loves me and will care about the baby.

My mom knows about my pregnancy. She found out when she entered my room and saw my pregnancy test kit. At least, it saved me from the burden of approaching her about my condition. But now she wants me to marry Miles. Otherwise, she wants me to have an abortion. But I don't want to lose my baby.

There is this other guy whom I recently met. He's 17 years old, very mature for his age and studies in a good school. I told him about what happened to me. He's really very understanding and is willing to help me. He wants to marry me or at least, he wants us to live together until we're both mature enough to get married. But I'm scared. Maybe he is just being friendly and helpful. I like him but I love Miles.

Please help me. Your advice will really mean a lot.

CHRISTINA

When we are young and in love, we always want to believe that relationships are meant to last. And most young girls give in to their boyfriends because they love them, afraid to lose them or just because they are made to believe that it is the ultimate proof of their love for them. And a lot of young boys who really don't understand what sex is all about just take advantage. They just enjoy their pleasures without understanding that there are things for which they should be responsible for.

You are just one of many young girls who lose in the deceitful game of love. Every now and then we hear of young girls' desperate efforts to live with the pain of having to go through unwanted pregnancy. I'm touched by your courage to keep your baby despite your mother's decision. I know your determination to rise even at the most trying time of your life will inspire many. You are a strong person, in will and in faith, and I admire you for that. You made the right choice not to abort your baby. What you feel for your baby is that of a mother. You are right. Abortion is not a solution because that tiny breath of life inside is God's greatest gift to you and He's glad you're keeping it.

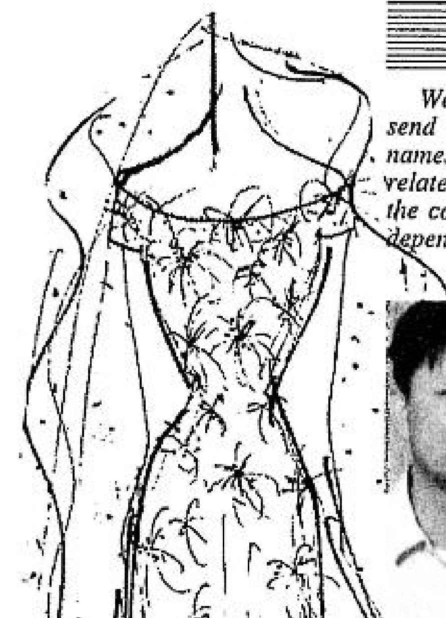
As for the father of your baby, I honestly believe that Miles deserves the right to know that he is going to be a father soon. It doesn't matter if he still loves you or not. Don't be afraid to let him know. If he doesn't want to accept his responsibility, don't let your feelings get in the way of thinking straight. Don't keep him. Let him go and set him free. You deserve someone better. Robert believes that he has the capacity to love you and be a father to your baby. It is possible and it is not far from happening but it is still too early to tell. Just let time take its proper course. Believe me, it's better to bear a child without a father than to have a husband who will just make your life miserable and bring you nothing but heartaches.

May God bless you with a healthy baby. Strive to be happy. I know that there's Someone up there who can do miracles. Just look up and believe.

E-mail the author at joe@ailink.net

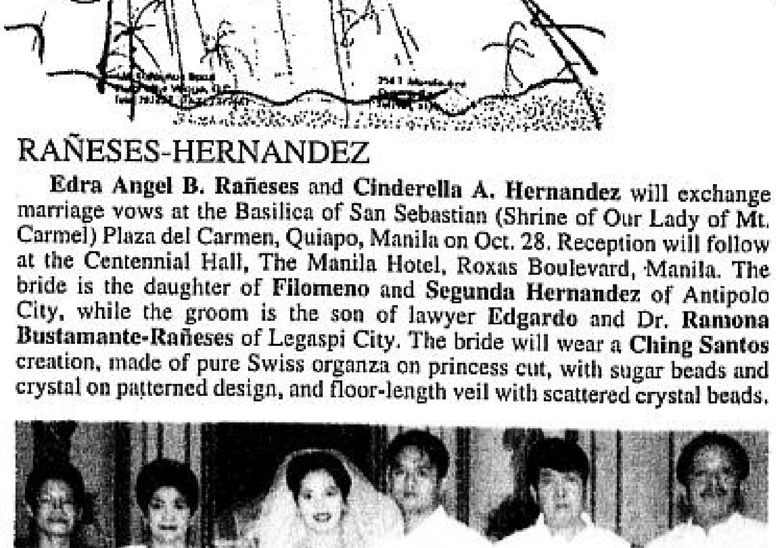
Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.



RAÑESES-HERNANDEZ

Edra Angel B. Rañeses and **Cinderella A. Hernandez** will exchange marriage vows at the Basilica of San Sebastian (Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel) Plaza del Carmen, Quiapo, Manila on Oct. 28. Reception will follow at the Centennial Hall, The Manila Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. The bride is the daughter of **Filomeno** and **Segunda Hernandez** of Antipolo City, while the groom is the son of lawyer **Edgardo** and Dr. **Ramona Bustamante-Rañeses** of Legaspi City. The bride will wear a **Ching Santos** creation, made of pure Swiss organza on princess cut, with sugar beads and crystal on patterned design, and floor-length veil with scattered crystal beads.



VILLAGONZALO-LLANES

Henry Villagonzalo, son of Mr. and Ms **Henry Villagonzalo Sr.**, and **Leah Llanes**, youngest daughter of Mr. and Ms **Normando Llanes**, were wed recently at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, 4 Dao St., San Antonio Village, Makati City. They entertained their guests at Kamayan Restaurant, Pasay Road, Makati City. Rev. **Allan Lapay** officiated the ceremony. The bride's gown was created by **Gaskel Fernando**.

SORIANO-DEMATAIS

Engineer **Vicente "Don" S. Soriano**, son of **Nicolas** and **Editha Soriano II**, wed **Roinda "Weng" B. Dematais**, daughter of **Rosendo** and **Indalecia Dematais Sr.**, on June 28 at the Sta. Clara Church, Balindog, Kidapawan City. Reception followed at the AJ Hi-Time Hotel, Kidapawan City. Wedding coordinator was **Tata S. Soriano** of Heaven's Gift. The bridal gown was designed by **Rudy Lamanilao**.

MASSEY-ANTE

Dr. **Mary Jane Licup-Ante** and **Michale K. Massey Jr.** were married at Dayton Catholic Church, Ohio, USA. Mary Jane is the daughter of doctors **Jose** and **Gloria Ante** of Legazpi City and Louisville, Kentucky. Michael is the son of Mr. and Ms **Michael Massey Sr.** of Honolulu, Hawaii.

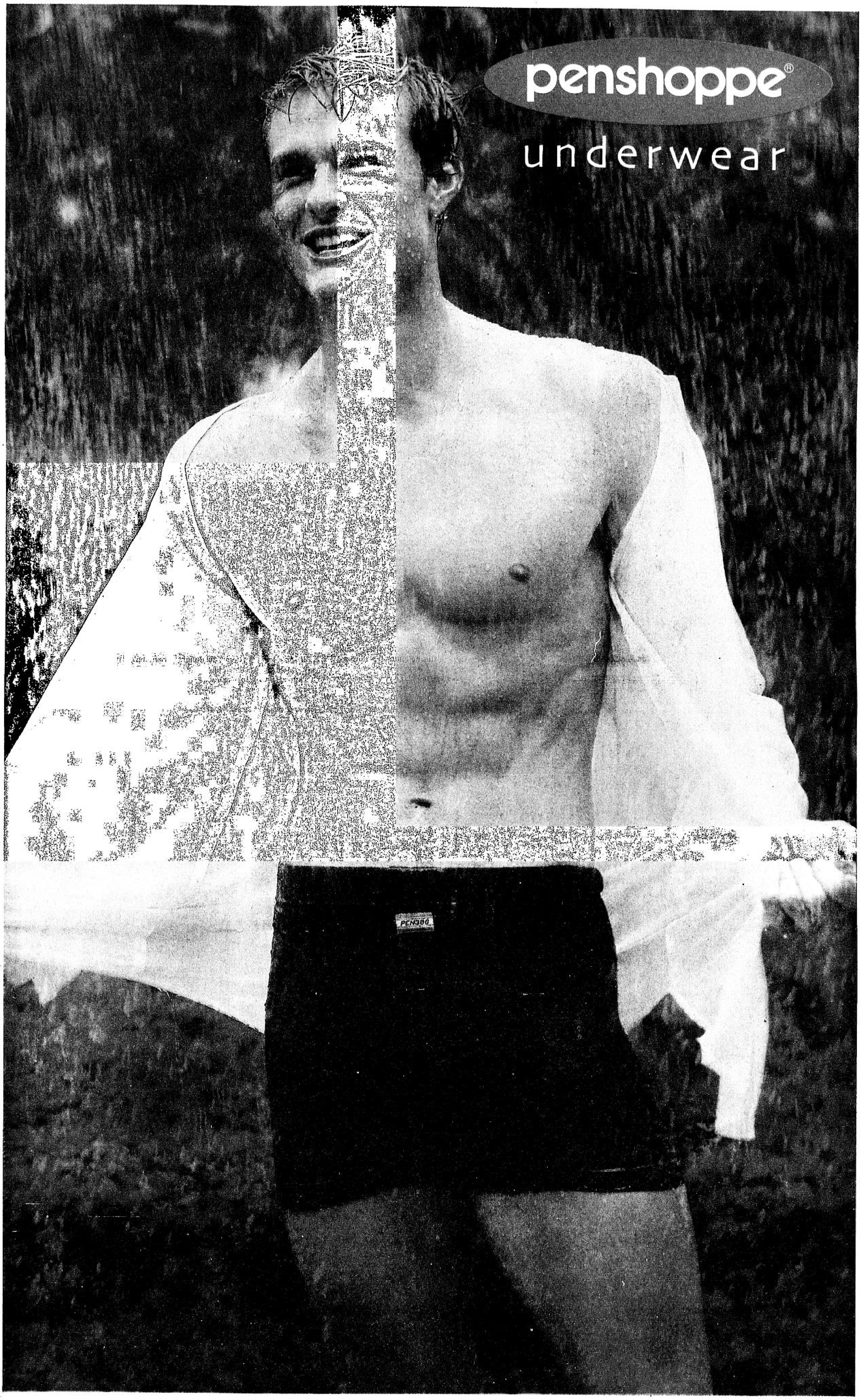
LIPANA DEBUT

Diane Shayne Lipana celebrated her 18th birthday on Sept. 29 with a dinner dance party at Silver Spur Diner, C. Raymundo Avenue, Pasig City.

An honor student graduate of St. Paul Pasig, Diane is a freshman taking up B.S. Statistics at UP Diliman. She is the daughter of **Mario** and **Ampy Lipana**.

REYES-SERGIO

Maya Sergio, daughter of **Edmundo** and **Luzminda Sergio**, married **Santi Reyes**, son of **Oscar** and **Luisa Reyes**, on Aug. 17 at the Manila Cathedral. Maya wore a haltered princess-cut ecru Italian satin bridal gown by designers **Jontie** and **Nicky Martinez**, traced with *sampaguita* lace and corded embroidery and embellished with pearls, borealis and caviar beads.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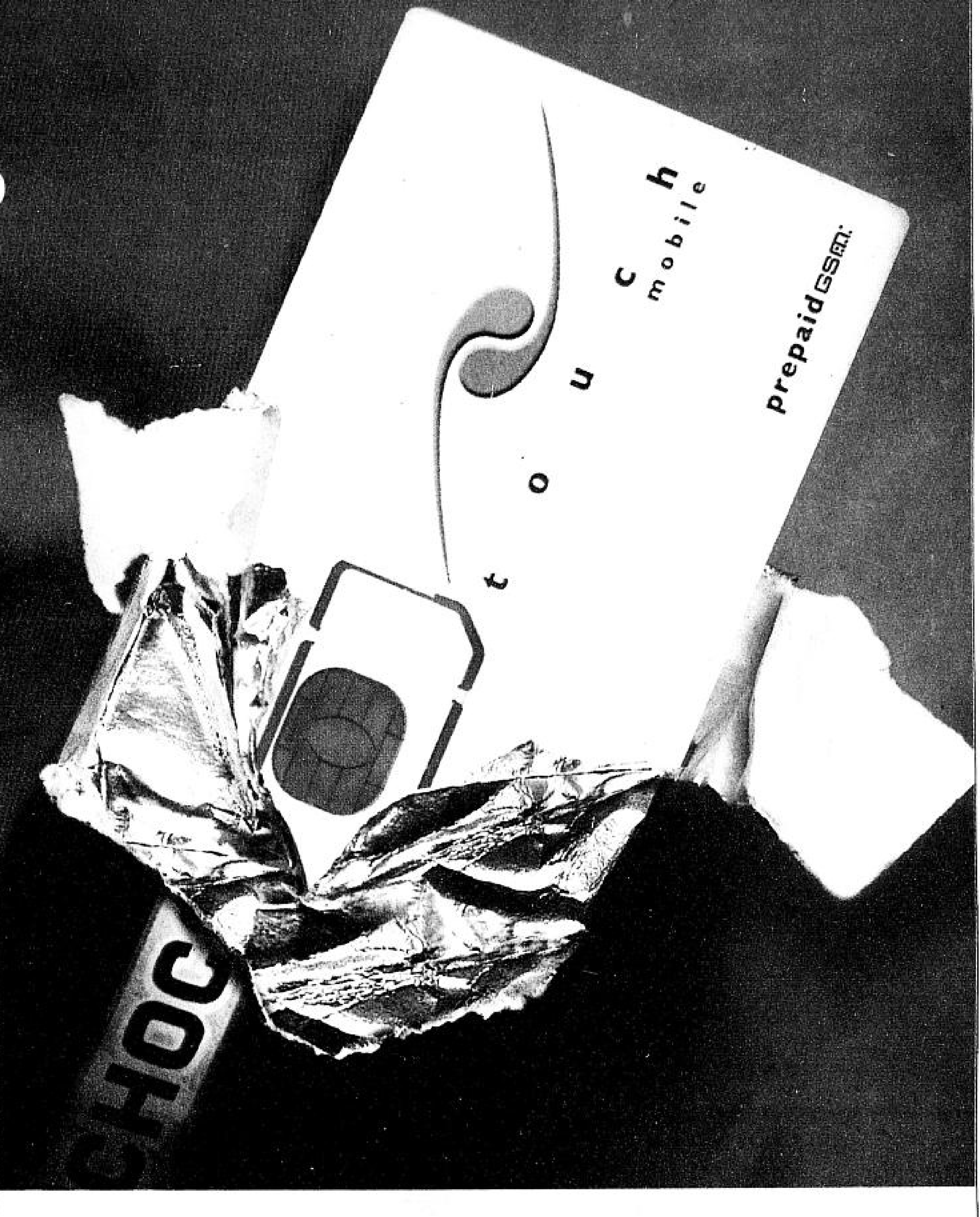

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They weren't paid their full 'Rent'

GARCIA

COMPILED BY LITO ZULUETA

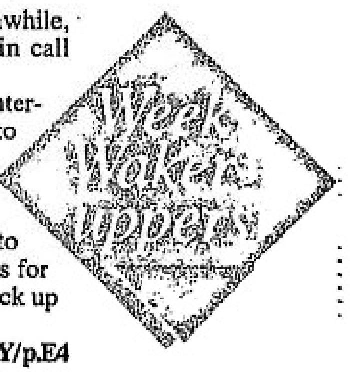
LIFESTYLE columnist Clinton Palanca went to watch the musical "Rent" the night of the special invitation run for the media and the friends and family of production members. Here's what he had to report:

"The performance was brilliant, and had the excitement and energy that could only come from a well-rehearsed production on opening night.

"It also came, though, with the occasional intrusion of a rhythmic low buzzing sound on the sound system, the sort that you get when your mobile phone is too close to the radio and a text message comes in. Fifteen minutes before the end of the show, as the climax neared, the director, **Roberto Garcia** (who also happens to be the producer), leaped up on stage and announced that he was stopping the show. 'These performers have worked very hard,' he said, 'and they deserve a little more respect. All the more because you were specially invited. We will finish the show among ourselves.' And so the audience shuffled out dazed and bewildered. Meanwhile, the cast finished the show; at the curtain call they bowed to an empty theater.

"Before the show began and after the interval, the audience had been requested to turn off their cell phones. Evidently, for many, this was simply interpreted as switching their phones to 'Silent' mode: a courtesy that has taken several years to ingrain. But 'Rent' uses radio transmitters for the head-strapped microphones, which pick up

THEY/p.E4



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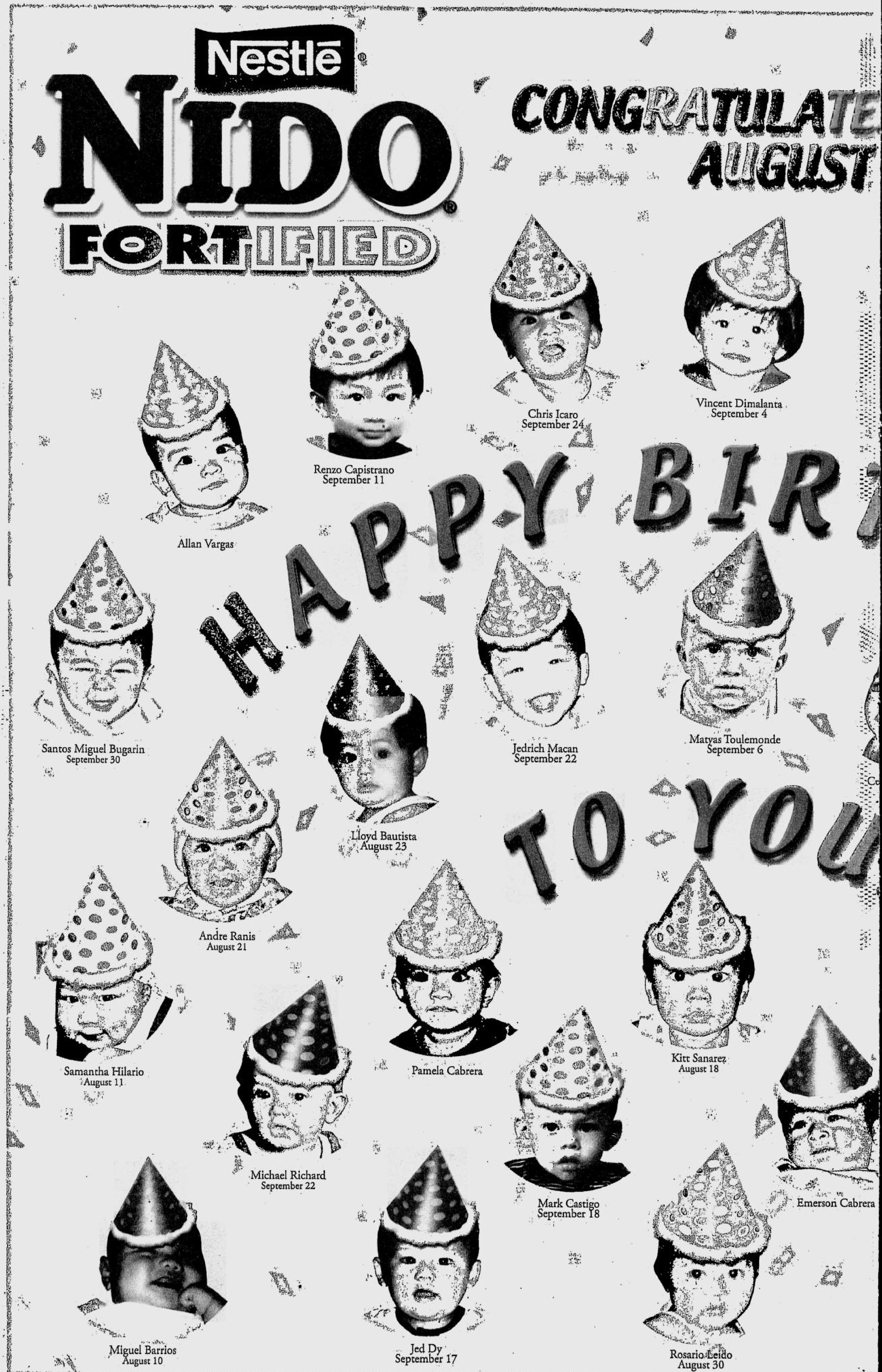

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September 22

Matyas Toulemonde
September 6

Lloyd Bautista
August 23

Andre Ranis
August 21

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August 11

Pamela Cabrera

Kitt Sanarez
August 18

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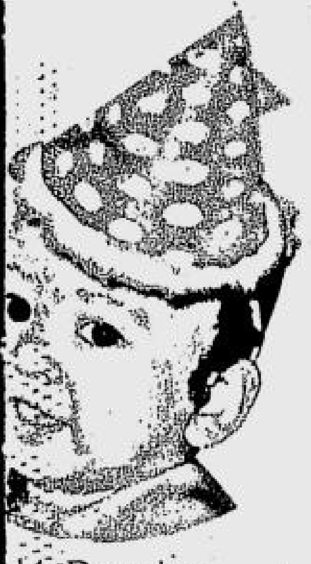
THDAY

Sandro Capistrano

Luis Morales
August 25

Reinhart Barba
September 15


dric Donguines
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Jiego Ramos
September 4

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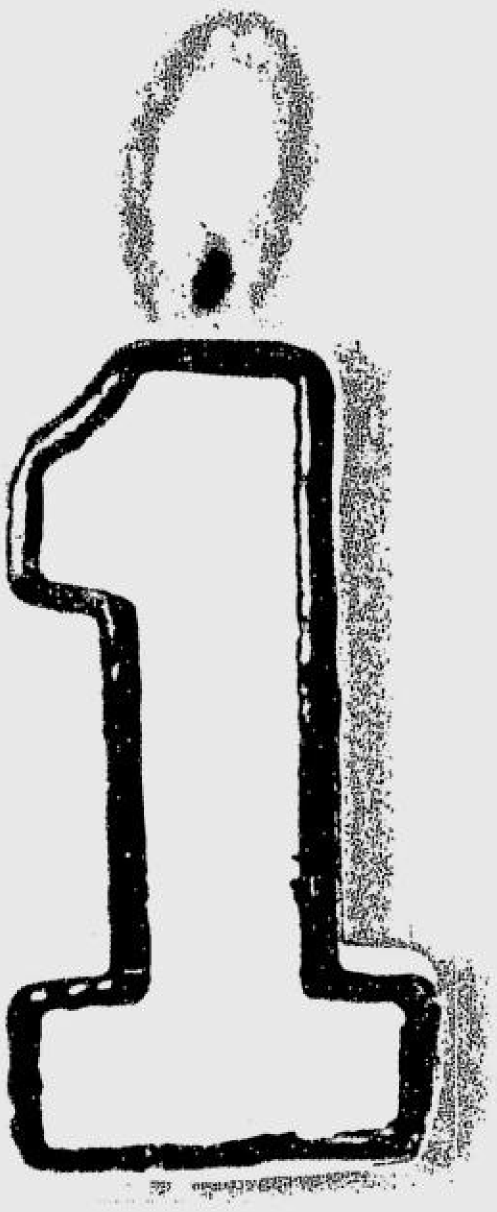

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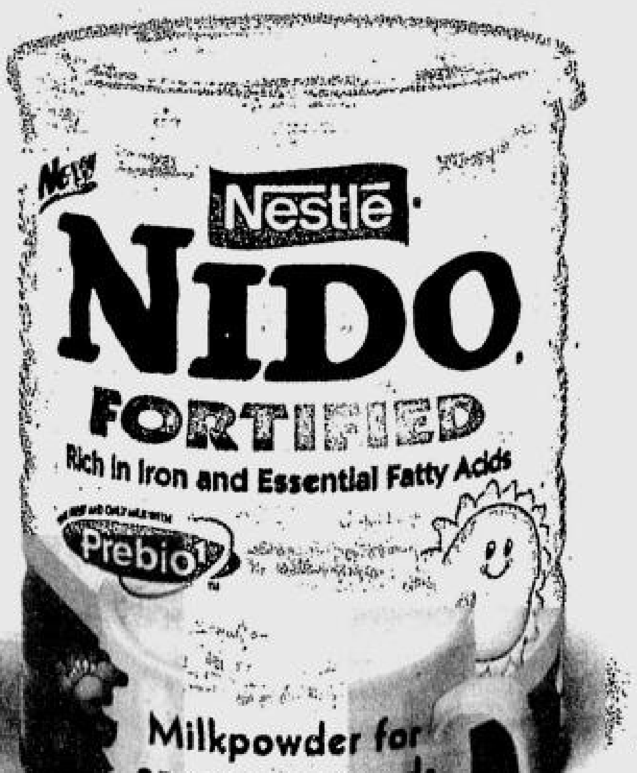
Dr. Jean Poblete
Pediatrician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They weren't paid their full 'Rent'

(From page E1)

RF interference, regardless of the phone setting.

"The sound was irritating, not just to Garcia, but to the audience as well, who audibly groaned whenever the 'da-da-dee-da-da-dee' went off. It was annoying, but on an annoyance scale, comparable to those who compulsively open cellophane-wrapped *polvoron*, a gathering of consumptives who cough and sneeze their way through a piano performance, or **Nick Joaquin** in an advanced state of inebriation in the front row heckling the actors.

"And thus we say in response to Mr. Garcia: We, too, made our way to the wasteland of the GSIS Theater to watch a not-fully-rehearsed show. Most of the audience were proud parents and relatives, supportive and enthusiastic friends, all of whom had at least some degree of respect for the performers, respect for Garcia's indubitable talent, respect for 'Rent' as one of the more important musicals in recent history, and for dear old **Jonathan Larsen** and his genius.

"The respect lacking was from Garcia for his audience, to whom he denied the satisfaction of an ending because he was somewhat peeved about an occasional disruptive interference. The audience would have wanted the show. Garcia wanted to show something about himself.

"Indeed, the audience no doubt learned an important lesson: Phones off, not just to 'Silent.' But Garcia has a far more important lesson to learn: simple professionalism. Garcia stopped the show not for the cast (many of whom were in tears afterward), nor for the audience; he did it because his ego couldn't sit through 15 more minutes of mild disruption. More talented directors than he and more talented production members than these have played to far less appreciative audiences. But the show must go on.

"There is no doubt about Garcia's abilities. But is there such a dearth of talent in Philippine theater that we must subject ourselves to the childish temper tantrums of a diva-like director? There is news that he will soon be working on another project with **Lea Salonga** and her mother. Now that should be interesting.

"Meanwhile, the Philippine theater-going public is hungry for new productions, new plays, new life. But if it is going to be ladled out with scorn, disrespect and self-indulgence, then we'd rather stay home, thank you very much."

Commercialism and elitism at UAAP

THE SENIOR basketball finals of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) between the Ateneo de Manila University and De La Salle University saw an ugly display of commercialism and elitism. Last Thursday, during the second game in which Ateneo won and tied the game at one-all, several campus press reporters carrying the proper identification were refused entry at the Araneta Coliseum. They were asked to show tickets, which means they had to buy them that late at scalper's prices.

Before the seniors' game, some campus press reporters had been allowed in on the strength of their press cards to cover the juniors finals in which UST prevailed over Ateneo. The reporters stayed on to cover the seniors' game, but much to their surprise, burly Araneta guards on orders of the UAAP management ordered them to leave the press corner. Even reporters of national publications were ordered evicted. A number of VIPs from the perfumed and moneyed lot took over the seats later.

The reporters said this was not the first time they had been treated shabbily. They said it is characteristic of the UAAP to be mercenary and "user-friendly." They said the UAAP at the start of the season would for help in drumming up interest for the games through press coverage. But during the crucial finals when public excitement over the contests had been heightened, there would be no more need for the press.

It is sad that the premiere showcase of collegiate sports in the country has become so commercialized that its organizers seem to have forgotten that it is held to promote sportsmanship and other things education holds dear, such as benevolence against greed and charity against avarice.

Boob boor

? THIS network executive should refrain from liquor since a little inebriation brings out the demon of bad behavior in him. In one network function, he was so sloshed that he sidled up to a sexy singer and asked, "How come whenever I see you your boobs get bigger?"

Recovering from her initial shock, the singer gamely but firmly answered, "Oh, I have them repaired every time."

Free speech

IN SPITE of the negative comments made about the country, I still believe that the Philippines is the best country in the whole world. Whenever friends and relatives come for a visit I make it a point to bring them to historical and cultural places. Quite recently I brought a group to the shrine of Jose Rizal in Calamba, Laguna. The hero's home with its furnishings were most interesting. The premises with all the trees and plants gave the place a cool and rustic atmosphere. All in all my guests loved the place, except the comfort rooms, which were dirty, smelly and without running water. How I wish something could be done about those comfort rooms.

(Sgd.) **JANNA IBANEZ**

British expert to speak on autism research

PAUL Shattock, O.B.E., director of the Autism Research Unit, University of Sunderland, United Kingdom, will be the guest speaker during the 7th National Conference on Autism on Oct. 26-28 at the 5/F Convention Hall, IEC Building, NIA Complex, Edsa, QC. Shattock has done extensive research on the possible relationship between autism and diet as well as on the possible environmental factors affecting autism. Other speakers are renowned developmental pediatricians Dr. Alexis Reyes and Dr. Rhandy Pe Benito, child neurologist Dr. Marilyn Ortiz and Dr. Eva Cutiongco of the Institute of Human Genetics. With the theme "Looking at Autism from a Lifespan Perspective," wide-ranging topics such as genetics, medications, immunizations, among others, will be discussed. The conference is hosted by the Autism Society of the Philippines. Call the ASP office at 926-6942 or 434-9249 or e-mail autismphils@pacific.net.ph.

PBBY calls for entries to writing contest

THE PHILIPPINE Board on Books for Young People (PBBY) is now accepting entries for the 2002 PBBY-Salanga Writers' Prize. The contest is cosponsored by the Cultural Center of the Philippines and The National Library. The winner will be given a cash prize of P25,000, a gold medal and an opportunity to be published.

All entries must be original and unpublished. Stories should be intended for children aged 6-12 years old. The plot and the sequence must be capable of sustaining an illustrated book of 28-32 pages.

Entries may be in Filipino or English, and contestants may send in more than one entry.

Interesting enough, PDI editorial cartoonist Jess Abrera won the PBBY Illustrators Prize in 1984 for "The Story of Handiong," which was written by his wife, Dette Lorenzo Abrera.

Deadline for entries is Oct. 15. Interested parties may contact PBBY at 73 Scout Limbaga, Barangay Laging Handa, QC. Call 372-3548/49, fax 372-4204 or e-mail the PBBY Secretariat at pbby@adarna.com.ph.

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THIS year's Heaven Sent bazaar will showcase products and creations from vendors who are exclusively joining Heaven Sent.

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This year's "Heaven Sent: The Lifestyle Bazaar" is not all about shopping. It's also about life and learning and making the most of your hobbies. So creative talents like Lenet Abueva, Nelia Silverio-Dee, Vivian Velez and Anna Marin are sharing their passion for pottery, découpage, soap making, balloon decorating and candlemaking. One can also learn how to cure common cold with homemade medicine from herbalist Domini Tordesillas. For those interested in the mystique of Pilates, an exclusive demo of the mind-body exercise will be presented by Stott Certified trainers from B+B Studio.

Catch the Heaven Sent bazaar on Nov. 10 and 11 and Nov. 17 and 18 at the Manila Polo Club. Each weekend will be different, so make sure you buy tickets for both.

Call Laika or Debbie at 816-3868/73, fax 867-1055, or e-mail heavensentbazaar@aol.com.

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- Strong technical writing skills

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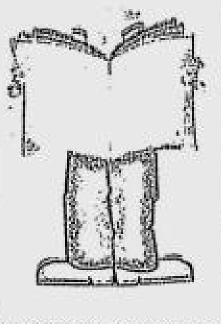

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- ☑ Take the lead role in planning the overall design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project;
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- ☑ Prepare timely narrative and financial donor reports;
- ☑ Coordinate and liase with various groups, networks, individuals necessary for achieving project objectives.

Qualifications:

- ☑ Minimum three years work experience (NGO experience is an advantage);
- ☑ Proven leadership and project management skills, resourceful, organized, creative;
- ☑ Excellent written and oral communication skills, in English and Filipino;
- ☑ Strong networking and people management skills;
- ☑ Proven finance management skills;
- ☑ Ability to work under pressure, meet tight deadlines, and deliver agreed standards of performance;
- ☑ Good computer literacy skills (familiarity with MS Word, Excel and other MS Office applications);
- ☑ Knowledge and understanding of coastal resources management/fisheries issues and organizations in the Philippines and Southeast Asia is an advantage.

Qualified applicants should submit application letter and complete curriculum vitaé to:

The Center Coordinator
CBCRM RC
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Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City
cbcrm_rc1@pacific.net.ph
Tel. 920-3368, 927-9237

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c. Knowledge of HIV/AIDS Policy processes and issues a plus
d. Ability to work with minimum supervision
e. Good communication skills

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The successful candidate shall contribute to the design, development and implementation of the HIV/AIDS and related Infectious Diseases (ID) strategies of the POLICY II Project in the Philippines. Specifically, he/she shall:

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- Provide technical assistance in strengthening HIV/AIDS and related ID advocacy networks/groups.
- Provide technical assistance to public, private, and NGO sectors to enhance skills in the analysis, presentation, and dissemination of information for HIV/AIDS and related ID policy formulation.
- Design and deliver training sessions in advocacy and training of trainers.
- Contribute to the preparation of project reports and document country activities and results achieved.
- Work with POLICY II Project team to develop annual workplans and budgets.
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Interested applicants may send their letter of application and curriculum vitaé on or before October 19, 2001 to:
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Telefax Nos. (632) 373-4140; (632) 373-4142; (632) 373-4143; (632) 373-4144 & (632) 372-5133
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- ➪ Independent and efficient
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- ➪ Ability and willingness to work beyond office hours

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Candidates for the above-mentioned vacancies must have at least 5 years extensive experience/ direct involvement in Real Estate, Planning, Marketing Development and Sales in a middle management to senior capacity, at least 30 but not over 55 years of age, with good public relations and knowledge in dealing with government agencies, self starter, trustworthy, excellent communication skills, analytical, innovative, flexible in handling stress, pressures and meeting tight schedules.

We offer competitive compensation package (open salary depending on experience and qualifications) plus numerous benefits to successful candidates. Interested parties may come personally or send their comprehensive resumé with picture and transcript of records to:

SVP-HRD, 4/F State Centre Building #333 Juan Luna Street, Binondo, Manila. Tel. nos. 242-1521-36, with fax nos. 242-0614 or 242-1227. You can also reach us through our e-mail address: stateinc@info.com.ph.

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL FILINVEST-ALABANG

A 20-hectare one-stop-destination to ultimate pleasure in shopping, dining and entertainment right at the heart land of Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, is inviting qualified applicants for the following positions:

LEASING OFFICER

Male or female, graduate of Marketing, Accounting, or any related course. Minimum of 2 years experience in leasing and marketing commercial spaces. With good interpersonal communication skills.

BUDGET & FINANCIAL OFFICER

Female, CPA, with at least 2 years supervisory experience in conducting budget reviews and financial projections. Computer literacy is a must.

TENANT RELATIONS/FOODCOURT COORDINATOR

Male, graduate of HRM, Nutrition, Business or Marketing course. With minimum of 2 years supervisory experience in a fast-food chain or hotel environment. Responsibilities will include housekeeping and marketing.

Interested parties may send their comprehensive resumé with contact numbers, transcript of records and 2x2 photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Festival Supermall Inc.
Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
or by FAX thru 850-3575

Visit us at our website

www.jobmarketonline.com

As part of our expansion program, we are in need of experienced and qualified individuals to fill in the following positions:

HR / ADMIN OFFICER

- graduate of B.S. Psychology or Behavioral Science
- at least 3 years experience, with strong background in recruitment
- preferably from a manufacturing company

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- male/female; not more than 30 years old
- college graduate of any 4-year course
- with at least 2 years experience in selling consumer products
- can work well under extreme pressure
- computer literate

Applicants must mail their resumé with recent 2x2 picture and contact number to:

Barrio Fiesta
Manufacturing Corporation
Human Resources Department
#13 Judge Juan Luna St.,
SFDM, Q.C.

Previous applicants need not apply.

INTERNET SALES SPECIALISTS

- Female; 23 to 28 years old; college graduate; preferably with Management, Computer Science or Marketing Degree
- Understanding Internet-based services (Internet connectivity), including leased line and dedicated dial-up services, is a must
- Must be able to work with minimal supervision; with good oral and written communication skills

Please send or bring your resumé to:

Cyberspace, Inc.
P/H Padilla Building, Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Fax 637-2776
Or e-mail us at info@csi.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

SERVICE ENGINEER

- Graduate of Computer Engineering
- Six months to one year experience
- Knowledge of Computer operations, desktop applications
- Troubleshooting skills, basic knowledge in networking

Mail your application letter, comprehensive resumé and 1x1 ID photo to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City

E-mail: **recruitment@inquirer.com.ph**

A POPULAR RESTAURANT CHAIN IS IN THE PROCESS OF EXPANDING AND FRANCHISING AND IS IN NEED OF AN

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Male or Female; 30 to 45 years old; Preferably a graduate of HRM or any business course; With at least 5 years experience in the same capacity; Computer literate and has an eye for detail; Well-versed in financial analysis and interpretation; Has experience in managing; Multi-branch operations, with extensive experience in conducting and implementing training programs; Salary commensurate to qualifications.

Interested parties may send their resumé with recent 2x2 ID picture thru fax 533-2960 or thru mail to this address:

THE PRESIDENT
#755 San Ignacio St.,
Mandaluyong City

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ACCOUNTANT

The candidate will report directly to the president. He/She will be required to prepare reports vital to management decisions. The salary we offer is highly competitive depending upon the qualification of the candidate.

The following are the requirements:

- ☞ knowledge in financial statement preparation & analysis/computer literate
- ☞ at least 1 year work experience as head of the accounting department
- ☞ Passed the CPA licensure exams
- ☞ should not be more than 35 years old
- ☞ good command of written & oral communication skills

Contact person: Virgie Teodoro
MPCO Box 1646, 1256 Makati City
or call 8960970; 896074244; 8975269

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

San Juan de Dios Educational Foundation, Inc.
(HOSPITAL)
2772-2774 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, 1300

FULLY ACCREDITED RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM

is now open for **FIRST YEAR** applicants

Deadline for submission of applications:
October 15, 2001

Please contact the following:
Jose Eric Laya, M.D. (Chief Resident)
or Ms. Jewel Dar Juan (Dept. Secretary)
at 831-9731 loc. 1148
Ms. Emmie Marcalda (Medical Director's Office)
at 831-9731 loc. 1104
E-mail: jm1@inquirer.com.ph
(Subject: MEG-DOS)

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

MALL SECURITY COMMANDERS
SECURITY OPERATIONS OFFICERS

- ○ 30 to 40 years old
- ○ Holds Bachelor's Degree in any course
- ○ With 3-5 years experience
- ○ With excellent leadership skills
- ○ Proficient in Oral and Written communications
- ○ Computer literate

Due to the urgency of this requirement, applicants are requested to call at Tel. Nos. 524-57-17 or 536-97-95

TECH/PROF

A Leading Company is in need of the following...

[A] SECRETARY

- ☑ Female, below 30 years of age
- ☑ With basic knowledge in accounting
- ☑ Computer literate
- ☑ Proficient in communication skills and writing
- ☑ Can work with minimal supervision
- ☑ Fluent in English, Tagalog
- ☑ Pleasing personality and with at least 2 years of experience

[B] RECEPTIONIST

- ☑ Female, below 25 years of age
- ☑ Proficient communication skills and computer literate
- ☑ With basic knowledge in marketing and direct sales
- ☑ Pleasing personality, fluent in English and Tagalog

[C] MARKETING SUPERVISOR

- ☑ Female, below 30 years of age
- ☑ Proficient in communication and presentation skills
- ☑ With knowledge in direct sales marketing
- ☑ Can work under pressure and minimal supervision
- ☑ Computer literate, fluent in English and Tagalog
- ☑ Pleasing personality and with at least 2 years of experience

Interested parties, please bring along your latest 2"x 2" picture and comprehensive resumé for a personal interview from October 8, 2001 to October 12, 2001, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Unit W, 2501-A Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas, Pasig City.

TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL

NERA
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

NERA is a premier solutions provider of microwave radio transmission, satellite communications and IT networking infrastructure and high value added electronics contract manufacturing. It started to address the local market early in 1995 and was awarded major contracts in the telecommunications networks of the country's major carriers.

Currently, we are looking for additional team player for our new Business Unit—**Information Technology.**

TECHNICAL SUPPORT SUPERVISOR

1. Graduate of Computer Engineering or any IT related course;
2. With at least 3 years supervisory experience in handling technical services for companies such as telco enterprises and/or internet service providers;
3. With certification in IT field preferred such as CCIE;
4. Must be knowledgeable on the following functions:
   - Switch/router configurations LAN/WAN installations and maintenance;
   - Frame Relay/ATM/Gigabit Ethernet and ISDN Networking;
   - Data security/encryption and Virtual Private Networking (VPN);
5. Must have a strong customer service orientation;
6. Excellent command in verbal and written communications.

SALES ENGINEER

1. Graduate of Computer Engineering or ECE;
2. With at least 3 years sales experience in handling accounts for telcos or internet service providers;
3. Excellent command in verbal and written communications.

Please send your resumé at:

NERA Philippines, Inc.
8th Floor, Multinational Bancorporation Centre
6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. 845-2971 loc 207 • Fax No. 845-3511/12
E-mail: tes@neraphil.com.ph

URGENTLY NEEDED!!!

BUSINESS WRITERS

For fast growing Philippine business and news magazine

Requirements:

- Preferably with 3 years writing experience in newspaper or magazine of general circulation
- Working knowledge of politics, business finance, economics
- Willing to work long hours
- Salary commensurate with skills and experience

Interested parties may send their resumé, picture and samples of work to:

P.O. BOX 2797 MCPO 1267
MAKATI CITY

A Well-Established & Leading Electrical Supply Company urgently needs

I. SALES & MARKETING MANAGERS

- Proven track record in sales involving commercial, industrial, institutional and dealer accounts
- Experience in formulating/implementing sales and marketing program; organizing product training and presentations
- Strong leadership skills & experience in handling staffs
- Candidates with knowledge in electrical products and can effectively communicate in Chinese will be given priority
- Salary/compensation package negotiable

II. SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

- Female, not more than 35 years old, preferably Chinese speaking
- Accountancy graduate preferably CPA, or at least attended CPA review
- At least 3 years experience and knowledgeable in all phases of accounting work, financial and operational audits; preparing various accounting and financial reports, statements, correspondences; can implement policies and internal controls
- Strong leadership & experience in handling staffs
- Computer proficient in Microsoft Office Applications esp. Word & Excel
- Salary commensurate to experience and qualifications

III. IMPORTATION COORDINATOR

- Male/Female, 22-25 years old
- B.S. Accountancy/Economics/Math. graduate
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Applications particularly Word & Excel
- Good in business correspondence and can communicate fluently with foreign principals in English and Chinese languages
- Salary commensurate to experience and qualifications

IV. TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVES

- Male, 22-25 years old, with pleasing personality
- B.S. Mechanical/Electrical Engineering graduate preferably licensed
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Willing to undergo product training

V. SALES EXECUTIVE

- Male, 22-28 years old with pleasing personality
- Bachelor's Degree in Marketing, Business, Electrical/ Mechanical Engineering
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English & Filipino Knowledge of Chinese is an advantage but not required
- Hardworking, trustworthy, aggressive and results-oriented

Interested applicants to submit comprehensive resumé, TOR, certification of employments and seminars, colored photo (2x2) to:

Le MarBen Classic Condominium
676 Florentino Torres Street corner Soler, Sta. Cruz, Manila
(Back of National Book Store, Rizal Avenue Branch)
Tel. 734-1091 E-mail: zgchrd@vasia.com
Look for Engr. Benjie Rosario / Mr. Angelo P. Villanueva

MINI JOB FAIR

GOES **Onstage**
GREENBELT

Nothing would afford us more pleasure than to bring you the second run of Mini Job Fair this year. The **INQUIRER'S JOB MARKET** carries on to meet the needs of our advertisers in picking the right professionals among the bunch.

On **October 22 to 24, 2001**, **JOB MARKET** will hold a **Mini Job Fair** at the city's latest venue in Greenbelt, Makati — Onstage.

The mini job fair offers packages which we hope you will then consider to join hands with us.

JOB MARKET PACKAGES

PLACE A 60 COL. CM. AD (MINIMUM SIZE) IN THE OCTOBER 21, 2001 ISSUE OF JOB MARKET TO ENJOY THE FOLLOWING:

- **FREE** **JOB MARKET** copies for job seekers on the 3-day affair
- **FREE** Posting and exposure to participating companies in our print ads
- **FREE** Three (3) weeks online exposure
- **FREE** Access to the Resumé Reserve databank
- **FREE** Pigeon-hole in the Job Market resumé collection booth for hard copies of resumés meant for the company
- **FREE** Posting of job vacancies at the event venue

PLACE A 120 COL. CM. AD (MINIMUM SIZE) IN THE OCTOBER 21, 2001 ISSUE OF JOB MARKET TO ENJOY THE FOLLOWING:

- **FREE** Distribution of company brochures or leaflets during the event
- **FREE** Playback of radio plug
- **FREE** Display of one (1) company streamer (1m x 3m)
- Plus the other freebies mentioned

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL

ERIC SALAZAR
Kalaw Branch – 528-0213 / 527-3342
intra_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

SEAOIL
kabalikat mo sa hanapbuhay

invites you to be part of a dynamic team and growing organization by becoming its:

SAFETY INSPECTOR
- ✓ Male, not more than 32 years old
- ✓ Licensed Mechanical, Electrical or Chemical Engineer
- ✓ At least 3-4 years experience in safety standards, practices, policies and procedures for a petrochemical plant or related industry
- ✓ Good communication skills
- ✓ Can deal with different levels of management

BRANCH SUPERVISORS MANAGEMENT TRAINEES*
- ✓ Graduate of Industrial / Management Engineering or related business course
- ✓ Male / Female, below 30 years old
- ✓ With experience in food chain, store or service-business branch operations
- ✓ Computer literate (MS Word / Excel)
- ✓ Above average oral and written communication skills
- ✓ Honest & trustworthy, highly flexible; keen to details and service-oriented

ADS & PROMO ASSISTANT*
- ✓ Graduate of Management Engineering, Marketing, Advertising / Fine Arts or related business course
- ✓ Male / Female, below 28 years old
- ✓ With experience in advertising and promotions
- ✓ Computer literate
- ✓ Above average oral and written communication skills
- ✓ Creative; keen to details and service-oriented

BUSINESS DEV'T ASSISTANT*
- ✓ Graduate of Marketing, Statistics or Civil Engineering or related course
- ✓ Male, below 28 years old
- ✓ Preferably with experience in sourcing future sites for gasoline station operations
- ✓ Above average oral and written communication skills
- ✓ Licensed professional driver

SHIPPING ASSISTANT*
- ✓ Graduate of Accountancy or Commerce or any related degree
- ✓ Female, below 28 years old
- ✓ With experience in cash disbursement, check preparation and credit & collection
- ✓ Experience in a shipping company an advantage
- ✓ Flexible; willing to work long hours and do occasional field work

CASHIERS*
- ✓ Graduate of Accountancy, Banking & Finance, or any business course
- ✓ Male / Female, below 26 years old
- ✓ Experience in cashiering functions; inventory, operating knowledge of POS and cash register, an advantage
- ✓ Computer literate
- ✓ Good communication skills
- ✓ Very flexible, honest & trustworthy; service-oriented

ELECTRICIAN
- ✓ Male, not more than 35 years old
- ✓ Graduate of Electrical Engineering or at least a vocational education in electronics or related field
- ✓ Preferably with 2-3 years experience in shipping electrical works
- ✓ Knowledgeable on generators

DRAFTSMAN
- ✓ Male, not more than 28 years old
- ✓ Graduate of Mechanical Engineering
- ✓ At least 3 years work experience in piping and structural detailing
- ✓ Knowledgeable in AutoCADD an advantage
- ✓ Can work with minimum supervision

SEAMEN
with experience in tankers, barges & tugboats:
- ✓ Major Patron
- ✓ Minor Patron
- ✓ Chief Engineer
- ✓ Second Engineer
- ✓ Third Engineer
- ✓ Fourth Engineer
- ✓ Oiler
- ✓ A/B

Fresh and highly trainable graduates may apply.

Send your resumé or bio-data to:

The Human Resources Department
SEAOIL GROUP OF COMPANIES
G/F The Meridien Bldg., 29 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
or e-mail to roy_decena@seaoil.e-mail.ph
for appointment and furhter inquiries, please contact
722-4871 to 75 or 723-0850

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB MARKET
Where You Find the Best

MINI JOB FAIR RECRUITMENT FORM

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

CAREER PREFERENCE:
1.
2.
3.
4.

LAST NAME:	FIRST NAME:		M.I.	SEX	CIVIL STATUS
DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YY)	AGE:	NATIONALITY:	E-MAIL ADDRESS:		
HOME ADDRESS			TEL #		
PROVINCIAL ADDRESS			TEL #		
OFFICE ADDRESS			TEL #		

TOTAL # OF YEARS OF FULL TIME WORK:

WORK EXPERIENCE

COMPANY	POSITION	PERIOD

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

SCHOOL	DEGREE	PERIOD

SPECIAL SKILLS

COMPUTER KNOWLEDGE:
LANGUAGES SPOKEN:
OTHER SKILLS:
SEMINARS/TRAINING ATTENDED:

Please fill up this form and send or fax to:
897-4808 • 892-5578 • 528-0213 • 912-9011 • 635-0220

Mini Job Fair Databank
JOB MARKET
PDI Bldg., Chino Roces Avenue
corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City

YOUR CONNECTION TO
BETTER PEOPLE, BETTER JOBS.

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOBMarket
ONLINE

TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL/GENERAL

URGENT RECRUITMENT

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

is in need of qualified individuals for the positions of:

INFORMATION ASSISTANT

Under the overall guidance of the Programme Support Unit Manager and the direct supervision of a Communications Specialist, s/he shall be responsible for the implementation of the communications strategy aimed at building the public image of UNDP. Tasks and duties includes:

1. *Internal Communications* - Participates in the development and formulation of a Country Office Communication and Advocacy Program; formulates, organizes and monitors/reviews an Internal Communications Programme consistent with the overall Country Office strategies;

2. *Intranet, Website and Extranet development and management* - Regularly obtains and consolidates feedback from internal users on possible new on-line services, applications and enhancements; prioritizes the roll-out of new on-line services, applications, and enhancements in coordination with IT assistant; oversees the design, development, and prototyping of the new on-line services, applications, and enhancements, if necessary, in coordination with ultimate users; recommends to Country Office senior management the appropriate responsibility centers for the management of the intranet/website/extranet; regularly updates the sections of the intranet/ website/extranet that are assigned to the communication & advocacy unit and monitors the performance/compliance of "responsibility centers; manages the orientation and training of users and responsibility centers on the use of on-line services, applications and enhancements.

REQUIREMENTS: Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications, Journalism or other related discipline; 3 – 5 years work experience in communications and advocacy, as well as media relations; working knowledge of development organizations; working knowledge of website development and database management through the use of MS applications and design tools; good organizational and planning skills; thorough understanding of UNDP thrusts, policies and procedures; Excellent writing and oral communication skills in English

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Reporting directly to the Manager of the Development Support Services Center (DSSC), the successful applicant shall regularly perform the following duties and responsibilities:

a) contracting of local and international consultants/experts and procurement of project equipment by canvassing, invitational (sealed bids) bidding, and/or Public Bidding process
b) maintenance and management of DSSC online and on file database
c) financial monitoring, recording and reporting
d) arrangement for training, fellowships and study tours;
e) other auxiliary functions required in pursuit of the organization's thrusts and objectives

REQUIREMENTS: Bachelor's degree in Business or Public Administration, Economics, or other related field; at least five-year professional experience in project development and management, or in related administrative support services; very good writing skills in preparing reports and business communications; proficiency in use of various software applications (MS Word, MS Project, Excel, etc.); experience in Government-executed project procedures an advantage. Applicants should have actual involvement and years of experience in the following: (a) international procurement procedures, public bidding process, negotiation and implementation of foreign-funded projects of the Government; (b) performing regular coordination, providing assistance and establishing good working relations with various government agencies; (c) familiarity with rules and procedures of the UN system, an advantage.

Initial appointment of 6 months subject to extension depending on satisfactory performance and medical clearance. Salary is tax-free.

Applications with complete resume must be received not later than 15 October 2001 at the PERSONNEL UNIT, P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office, 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City, or email address charito.dela.cruz@undp.org, or fax 816-4061, 893-9598. Only short-listed applications will be acknowledged.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

1) BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERS

- Minimum 3 years experience in General Medical Equipments.
- Exposure in setting-up and commissioning of Laboratory and Diagnostic equipment.

2) MECHANICAL (MEDICAL) ENGINEERS

- Minimum 3 years experience in Mechanical Equipments.
- Exposure in installation of C.S.S.D. (Autoclaves), Operating Light and/or Dental equipments is an advantage.

3) PLANT TECHNICIANS / ENGINEERS

- Minimum 3 years experience in Plant Set-up and Commissioning of Medical Gas Piping System and/or Medical Oxygen and Compressed Air System for Hospital and/or Industrial application.

All above position should be Male 25 ~ 45 years old.
Graduate of any technical / engineering course.

A salary range of P 75,000 ~ P 90,000 net/month awaits successful applicants and an opportunity to travel abroad.

Please apply in complete confidence with full Curriculum Vitae, details of experience and relevant credentials on Oct. 8 ~ 12, 2001 (Monday to Friday) from 9:00 AM ~ 4:00 PM at

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT INTERNATIONAL CORP.
Rm. 412 Doña Felisa Syjuco Bldg., Remedios St.
Corner Taft Ave., Malate, Manila
Tel.# 526-7812/ 536-7402 / 400-4465

An American Multi-national company is in need of a:

DRIVER

- Must have at least 10 years work experience as an Executive driver;
- Between 30-40 years old;
- Lives within Makati;
- Good personality;
- Can comprehend and communicate using the English language

Qualified applicants must send their resumés indicating the position desired and expected salary at:

Box 60
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Atrium of Makati, Makati Ave.,
Makati City

Stores Specialists, Inc.

URGENTLY NEEDS

TRAVEL COORDINATOR (TC-001)

- Female, 26 to 30 years old, mature
- Graduate of any 4-year course
- With at least 1 year experience in handling travel documents
- With good communication skills

FINANCIAL ANALYSTS (FA-001)

- Between 21 to 35 years old
- Accounting graduate, computer literate
- Proficient in oral and written communication with analytical ability
- Preferably with related work experience
- Willing to work beyond regular office hours

MERCHANDISER (M-001)

- Female, between 21 to 28 years old
- Graduate of 4-year Business course
- With or without experience
- With good grasp of figures; analytical
- Must be computer literate
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality

SECRETARY (S-001)

- Female, at least 25 years old
- Graduate of Management, Marketing or any related course
- Knowledge in secretarial services
- Must possess high level of maturity, analytical mind, and be able to command respect and deal well with all levels in the organization
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Must be computer literate

SENIOR FLORISTS
JUNIOR FLORISTS (SF/JF-001)

- At least 23 years old
- Experience with fresh flowers is a must
- Honest, hardworking and highly motivated

DISPLAY ARTISTS (DA-001)

- Between 21 to 30 years old
- Fine Arts or Interior Design graduate
- With creative skills in drawing, lettering, silk screening, flower arranging, etc.
- Willing to work beyond working hours

BEAUTY THERAPISTS (BT-001)

- Female, between 21 to 25 years old
- 5'2" and above in height
- With pleasing personality and clear complexion
- Graduate of Nursing or Physical Therapy
- With good communication skills
- Preferably near Alabang area

BEAUTY CONSULTANTS (BC-001)

- Female, between 21 to 28 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year Business-related course
- At least 5'2" in height with pleasing personality and clear complexion
- Preferably with skin care experience/Cosmetology background
- Good in oral communication skills

MAKE-UP ARTISTS (MA-001)

- Male, Female, Gay, between 21 to 30 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year Business-related course
- At least 5'2" in height with pleasing personality and clear complexion
- Preferably with skin care experience/Cosmetology background
- Good in oral communication skills

SALES ASSOCIATES (SA-001)

- Between 21 to 28 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year Business-related course
- At least 5'2" in height with clear complexion
- Must have initiative, ability and sustained interest in selling
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Good in oral communication skills

ALTERER (A-001)

- Female, between 21 to 35 years old
- Single or married
- With work experience

ELECTRICIANS (E-001)

- Male, at least 25 to 28 years old
- Graduate of Electrical Engineering
- Must have worked as an Electrician or Maintenance Staff for at least 2 years
- Must have skills in trouble shooting of different kinds of office equipment
- Willing to work beyond working hours

HVAC TECHNICIANS (HT-001)

- Male, not over 30 years old
- Graduate of Mechanical Engineering
- At least 3 years related work experience

PLUMBER/CARPENTER/MASON (P/C/M-001)

- Male, between 21 to 35 years old
- At least High School graduate
- With at least three (3) years related work experience

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumé and recent 2x2 photo to:

STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
Personnel Department
4th Floor, Midland Buendia Building
403 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City

Please indicate position codes.

NETESSENTIALS

NETWORK ESSENTIALS CORPORATION

A fast-growing computer-based distribution company is looking for highly-motivated individuals to be part of the team:

DEALER SALES REPS

M/F; College Graduate of any 4-year course; 22-28 years old
Familiarity with computers/ experience in computer parts and peripherals sales a definite advantage
Computer literate; good analytical and communication skills

COMPUTER TECHNICIANS / COORDINATOR

Male; Graduate of a 4-year college or 2-year vocational course; not more than 30 years old
Familiar with computer parts & peripherals; w/ 1 year relevant experience in computer technical work
Computer literate

Interested applicants may send their resumés & transcript of records to:
Suite 1112 BPI Bldg., Quintin Paredes St., Binondo, Manila
Or e-mail to: nec@pacific.net.ph

Positions open for Manila and Ortigas offices

Resumé Writing

A resumé goes by many names like *curriculum vitaé* or bio-data. It also comes in many forms, from the computer-composed and laser printed versions to the handwritten notes on yellow pad. What it should be is a short account of Jaymie's qualifications as a job applicant. No matter how good Jaymie is, it is best to keep the resumé within two pages at the most and one page if there's no work experience.

Because it is one of the most important documents sought from a career seeker, it makes sense to have a well-written and neatly printed resumé. Jaymie should always bear in mind that resumé is usually the first contact between her and an employer and that first impression can have a direct bearing on the outcome of her application.

JOB MARKET
www.jobmarketonline.com

Our client **GUAM ADVANCE ENTERPRISES, INC.**, located in GUAM, U.S.A. is in need of the following positions for their PALAU Project:

Accre No. 66293

1. MECHANICAL ENGINEER

- Licensed, at least 30 years old, aggressive
- At least 3 years exp. Mechanical Engineer gained in construction Industry like power plants, etc. good comm. skill
- Knowledge in estimation, work scheduling etc.
- Must be computer literate, good documentation

2. ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

- Licensed, at least 30 years old, aggressive
- At least 3 years exp. Electrical Engineer gained in construction Industry like power plants, etc. good comm. skill
- Knowledge in estimation, work scheduling etc.
- Must be computer literate, good documentation

INTERESTED APPLICANTS PLEASE SUBMIT/SEND 2 SETS OF RESUMÉ TO:

INTERNATIONAL PROGRESS INC.
61-E. Timog Ave., South Triangle,
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 926-7427 / 924-2112 / 415-7247
Fax Nos.: 416-5298 / 926-9427
Email address: ipiees@nsclub.net

No Fees to be Collected
Beware of Illegal Recruiter
This Ad is allowed under MC-2

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

THE STECK VAUGHN CORP. OF TEXAS U.S.A. AND ITS FILIPINO PARTNER IS IN NEED OF:

30 OJT PERSONNEL

QUALIFICATIONS:

- At least 23 to 30 years old
- At least 3 years college education
- Willing to travel around the Philippines
- Experience not necessary

COMPENSATION:

- P7,500.00 - while on probation
- P9,500.00 - plus incentive - regular
- Free training (4 days)
- Fast promotion to managerial position

Apply personally tomorrow, October 08 (Monday) and 09 (Tuesday), 2001 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at our main office 4th floor Orcel Bldg., 1611 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City near Edsa top of Land Bank.

Employed applicants and students need not apply.

PAGE ONE CAFÉ

WANTS YOU!!!

- If you are 20-30 years old
- Fluent in English
- Hardworking
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SUNDAY
INQUIRER
MAGAZINE

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

October 7, 2001
Volume 14 No. 31

Jessica Soho Reporting

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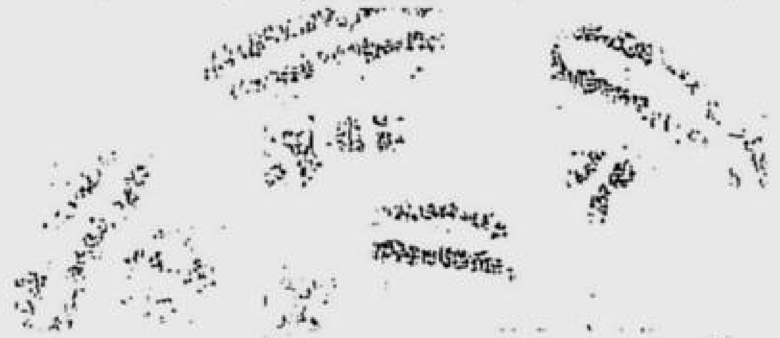

Ako si Voltes V

Ako si Voltes V
Kapag wala pa si Bb. Riyos
At mga kaeskuwelang nambubugnot
Sakay ako ng bunot
Iwawasiwas
Ang basahan at walis tambo
At mauulila ng agiw at alikabok
Ang pasilyo ng Gabaldon
Doon. Noon.

Ako si Voltes V
Kapag ayaw dumalo
Ni nanay o ni tatay
Sa PTA meeting
Huhulagpos
Ang chain knuckles
At hahandusay sa sahig
Ang magagaling kong magulang
Doon. Noon.

Ako si Voltes V
Kapag bumabaybay sa Kulikuli
At natanaw na nakaabang si Uldog
Na handang mangikil at mambatok
Titining
Ang ultra magnetic top
At hahagkan ni Uldog
Ang pusali ng likulikong kalye
Doon. Noon.

Ako si Voltes V
Kapag sumisilay sa imbay
Ng aking nililiyag at sinisilo
Ang ipo-ipo sa mailap niyang pisngi
Huhugutin
Ang laser sword
At nagmamakaawa niyang aamutin
Ang pinaninibughuan kong karinyo
Doon. Noon.

Ako si Voltes V
Kapag tumitining ang multo
Ng humpak na sikmura at dangal
At kalansay ng yinuyurak na bayan
Iwawasiwas ang kinadenang kamao
Huhugutin ko ang ultra magnetic pen—
Huhulagpos ang laser saknong at taludtod
At dadanak ang tintang itim
Dito. Ngayon.

German V. Gervacio

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <sim@inquirer.com.ph>

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The Cover Image Jessica Soho has carved a stellar career in TV journalism by breaking barriers — and by being herself
Photograph by Mike Alquinto

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Pinoy Connection
by Cathy Babao-Guballa

Australian Tim Farrell gave up a high-paying job to work with street children in Manila – and gained a new perspective on what's really important in life

Volunteer *Kuya*

DRESSED SIMPLY IN A PLAIN WHITE T-SHIRT AND JEANS WITH A MOP OF LIGHT BLONDE CURLY HAIR AND EYES THE COLOR OF THE SKY, AUSTRALIAN TIM FARRELL LOOKS LIKE A MOVIE STAR. HE GOES ABOUT HIS BUSINESS QUIETLY – TEACHING, FEEDING AND CARING FOR THE 30 OR SO STREET CHILDREN AT THIS SHELTER. *KUYA* TIM, AS THE CHILDREN FONDLY CALL HIM, HAS BEEN IN THE COUNTRY NOW FOR CLOSE TO 10 MONTHS. THE 38-YEAR-OLD FORMER INVESTMENT BANKER IS LIVING HIS DREAM IN THIS 50-SQUARE METER CHILDREN'S SHELTER UNDERNEATH THE ST. FRANCIS CHURCH IN MANDALUYONG. "THIS IS SOMETHING THAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO, ALWAYS DREAMED OF DOING."

Tim was born and raised in Australia and had been working there for 12 years in the financial markets, trading bonds and dealing in securities, when he decided to drop everything to fulfill a life-long dream. After resigning from his job, he went to Salamanca, Spain soaking himself in the country's language, arts and history. Upon his return to Australia he surfed the net and through a non-governmental organization in Switzerland, "stumbled" upon the Unang Hakbang Foundation, an organization committed to uplifting the plight of Metro Manila's street children. "I had been to the Philippines twice in 1987 and 1989 but had never seen this side of the country," he says. "As a human being, I believe it is each person's duty to give something back for all the blessings one has received. There should be an obligation to help," Tim stresses. Even as we speak, a child tugs on *Kuya* Tim's sleeve, asking to be read to.

Tim is a natural with children and this is evident in the way he talks to them, reads to them, carries them and even feeds them. He carefully wipes grime off one child and helps another one blow his nose. Laughingly he tells us how his investment banking friends back home cannot believe that he enjoys and finds great fulfillment in what he is doing for these children who ply the streets and corners in between Megamall and Shangri-la. "My friends like to kid me. They tell me that I sold my soul to the devil so now I'm trying to win it back," Tim says, breaking into a smile. Clearly, he enjoys his present "occupation" and would not trade it for anything in the world. "I intend to stay until December," he begins, " I know I gave up a lot this last year (financially) but I don't regret it. My life now has more depth and I'm done with the dog-eat-dog kind of lifestyle. When I go back home I'd like to do more analytical type of work."

Tim's days are pretty gruelling – waking up early, he leaves his apartment in Mandaluyong and takes the jeepney to Welfareville compound, where he spends the entire morning teaching the children English and Math. In the afternoons he hies off to the drop-in center beneath St. Francis Church and helps in teaching classes, playing with the kids, doing craft projects with them, helping prepare meals and even feeding the smaller ones. Watching him that afternoon interact with the kids, he sticks out like a sore thumb with his fair skin, Caucasian features and light hair but clearly he is one with them in heart and spirit. The experience the past 10 months has really grounded Tim. "You see what's really important, and I've realized the significance of volunteerism. How the little that you can do can have a great impact on the life of a child."

Roger Carpio

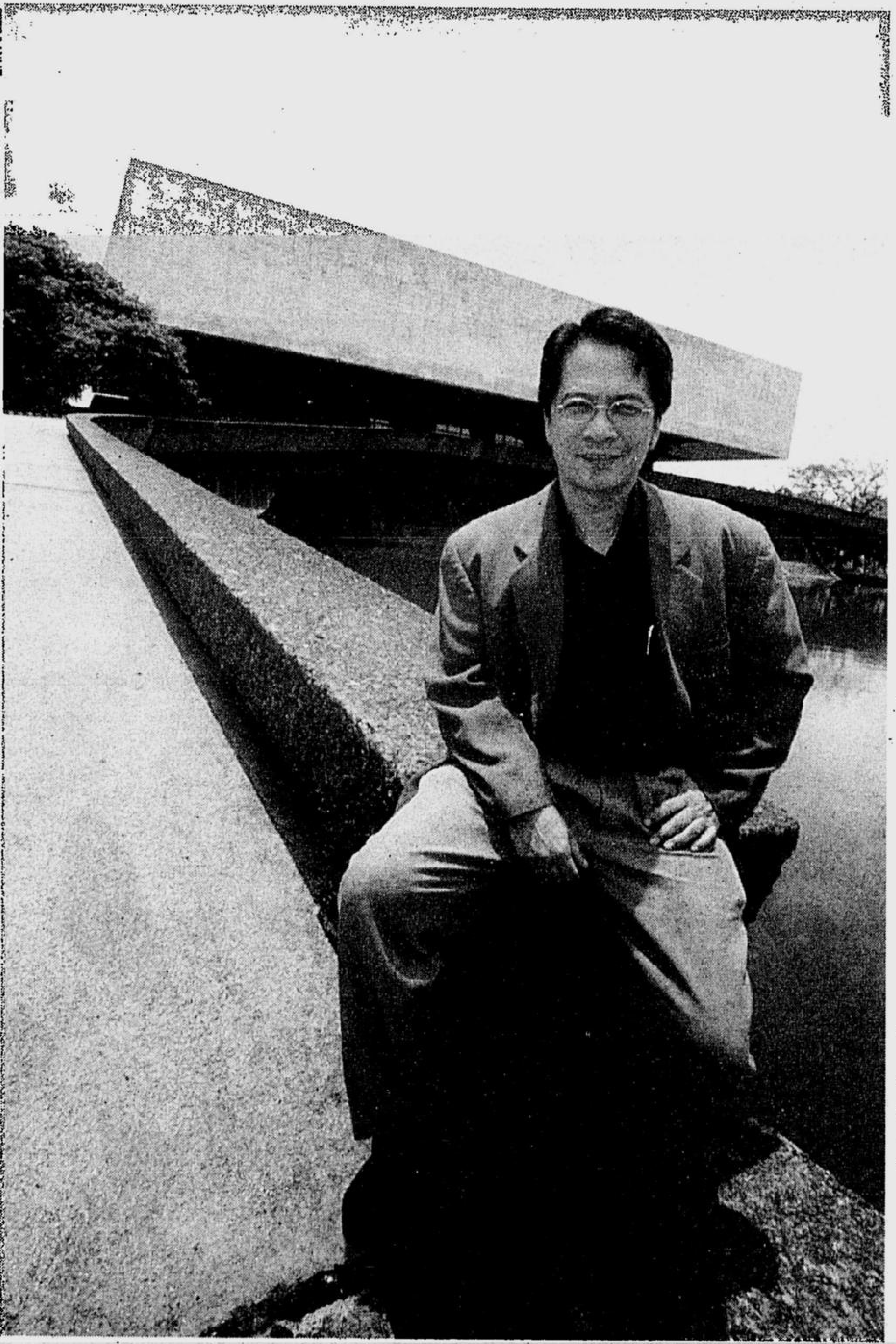
Tim and his wards at the Mandaluyong shelter *by Alya B. Honasan*

For new Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) president Nes Jardin, the first order of the day was to thresh out differences born of divided loyalties in the country's premiere cultural institution — a task made easier by the fact that he is a hard-working arts manager as well as an artist

Healing the Wounds

IF willingness to get one's hands dirty is an indication of leadership, then the future of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) looks promising despite the fall of the arts (again) to the bottom of the list of national priorities in this time of terrorism and economic strain. Nestor "Nes" Jardin, who assumed the presidency in July after being simultaneously elected by the board and appointed by Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, practically grew up as an artist at the CCP. He started as a dancer for Ballet Philippines in 1973, subsequently concentrating on arts administration as the institution's artistic director and vice president. He's at his office by 8 a.m. and likes to wind up paperwork after evening shows – which spells long working hours for a man whose idea of relaxation is doing his laundry! In 1995, the 49-year-old Jardin, who has organized countless arts festivals here and abroad, even went back to school, 26 years after dropping out of UP, to formally finish his degree in zoology. He spoke to **SIM** *about the challenges of arts management in the Philippines.*

Erik Arazas



So how was your first month as CCP president?

It was very difficult at the beginning, as I was coming into a situation with a leadership problem. I was expecting a divided house, because over the past two years, employees were torn between the two boards. The way I assessed it, there were three types of employees — those who were fiercely loyal to our board and the charter we were fighting for, those who were loyal to Gloria Angara's group, and the majority, employees who did not align themselves but were just doing their job.

From my very first day, I told employees that my priority over the next four weeks was to come up with a plan to heal the wounds. I effected a major reorganization and reshuffling, which hasn't been done since the time of former president Mrs. Teresa Roxas, under Pres. Cory Aquino. I'm of the belief that nobody should stay too long in a position. You lose your creativity, get too familiar with your staff and with the work, and you don't get challenged anymore. Some employees did not like the changes, but that was threshed out with them through dialogues. I was surprised that the reshuffling went very smoothly.

You don't have an artistic director yet.

By end of the year, I would like to name a director and would like the board to confirm my choice. There are two major groupings as far as organizational structure is concerned here. The artistic director takes care of conceptualizing, planning and organizing the artistic programs, while there's a VP for finance and administration who handles marketing, administrative services, finance. Both VPs are under me, but right now it's still very centralized and I'm doing both jobs!

What's first on your agenda after the reshuffling?

I would like to go full speed with the CCP complex development. Looking at our financial situation, we are 40 percent dependent on government support, and 60 percent would have to be raised through operations and income. That's not enough for the programs we'd like to implement. The land case has been settled in our favor, it's almost ours. That is 60 hectares of open space, prime area to develop and earn from.

How do you plan to protect this institution from politics?

That's why we fought for the upholding of the charter of the CCP. The board led by Fr. Bobby Perez and Bal Endriga spearheaded this legal action. If the Supreme Court rules in favor of the charter, and rules that it is the board of trustees that can elect the president and members, that guarantees the political independence of the CCP. That means the Supreme Court will recognize that Malacañang has no say in who the next president will be. The position can no longer be a political plum. If they decide on an appointed president, we will have to devise ways to make sure the appointee is qualified, such as making it a policy, if Malacañang agrees, to have the President choose from among the board's recommendations.

It's economic crunch time again, and art is at the bottom of the list of national priorities. How do you feel about that?

Very sad, because we have experienced that. We have resident companies, and many groups come to us for help. It's the same sad song — their sponsorship drives and fundraising efforts have been zero these past few years, a very direct indication of the situation in the business and private sector. What artists are doing now is trying to live within their means, but that has a positive side also. Many artists should be able to challenge their creativity. You don't need all those lavish productions to create something meaningful and substantial. I'd like to look at it in that positive sense.

Do you still get the argument from some people that art is only for the elite?

That's one of the dangers if people in the government regard art as entertainment. Then it becomes elitist, because only those who have the luxury of time and money can afford entertainment in these difficult times. And that's the biggest battle the CCP has been fighting ever since. We feel there is a strong need for moral transformation in society, and the value formation for which art is a most effective tool should be pursued. That is a nebulous idea, but people who matter should be able to understand that. How can you transform without the right values? As cultural workers and artists, we have to ensure that people who have power, whether from the government or private sector, should understand this.

Arts management hasn't really been recognized as an independent field in the Philippines. Is that still the case?

Yes, although in the past two years we have made some inroads. I am also director for the Institute for Cultural and Arts Management (ICAM), a training arm of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) which is now open, although I will be giving up my position there soon. The NCCA board led by Jimmy Laya and Virgilio Almario thought this up last year. Arts companies now need to be managed professionally in order to survive, and they asked me to help them conceptualize the institute. We decided to offer short-term courses, because the targets are already practitioners and cultural workers, attachés, cultural officers in city and municipal governments. Their training would cover several aspects of arts management, like marketing, financial management — things they would have already been doing unconsciously, anyway.

What's the biggest problem in arts management here?

The fact that arts managers now, although they have the passion and the experience, need the basic education. They must be able to contextualize what they are doing from a professional management viewpoint so they can adapt to changes. Some managers who have studied would simply say, this is what I learned, *de kahon*. But these would be strategies and tools used in business corporations, which do not necessarily apply to arts organizations, because arts organizations are unique. If they can transpose the general tools of business management to art groups through creative management and strategic planning, then many groups will not only survive, but flourish.

Arts organizations are unique in that they do not exist for profit, as versus other companies. That philosophy transforms the structure and culture of your organization. For example, an organization that does commercial shows would present programs that the audience would like to see, so they adjust to the taste of the audience. That is their end-all. They entertain. For any cultural group, the mission is not to make money but to serve, to develop artists. So when we make our programs, we design these according to our perception of what the audience needs, and we bring the audience to us.

But they say practicality and creativity don't mix.

I don't believe in that. I think they can coexist. Many artists eventually become arts managers. Bibot Amador has done fantastic things for Repertory, not just in artistic terms, but in the way they manage the company.

Is it an advantage to be an artist in your job?

It is, in terms of where you want to bring your organization. Being an artist would make it easier for you to deal with artists and cultural workers because having been one, you would have gone through the hardships, the discipline and the other aspects of being an artist.

Has the CCP changed a lot since you first started dancing here?

Back then it was merely a performing arts center, and through the years the CCP has expanded its scope in terms of programs as well as geographic scope. Now we have a literature division; we do many things. We have national and international arts councils, and the height of this expansion came during the time of Mrs. Roxas and Nic Tiongson. I feel it was more difficult for us to be artists before; we had to contend with more problems in terms of resources available. Now there are more opportunities, as well as venues for shows and exhibitions.

It's a long way from a Lucena childhood and a Zoology course to the CCP presidency.

After graduating from Philippine Science High School, you had to take a science course, so many of us wanted to go into medicine. My parents wanted me to be a doctor. But I started dancing in high school; one of our teachers in PE started a folk dance group. One summer, we only had two subjects, and a friend and I joined the workshop at CCP. After the workshop, Alice Reyes offered me a scholarship for Ballet Philippines. My first ballet teacher was Eddie Alejar.

The following year, the company had a tour in Australia and Southeast Asia. That

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MEMBER: PANA Truth in Advertising

by Joy Rojas
photographs by Mandy Navasero

A game plan that is— Cynthia Carrion draws on her athletic experience to meet the challenges of being a newly appointed commissioner of the Philippine Sports Commission

She Got Game

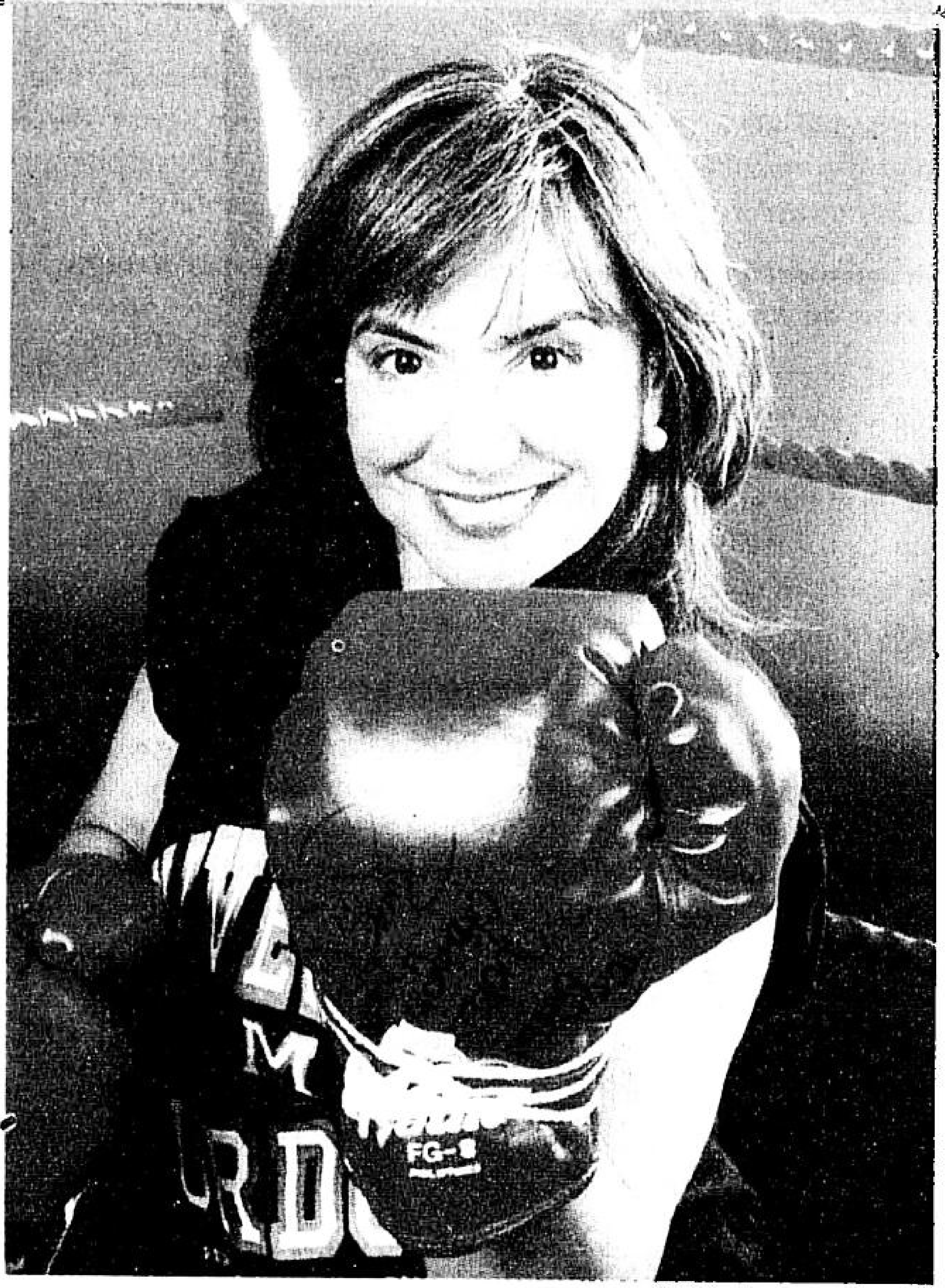
FOR CYNTHIA CARRION, BEING ACTIVE IN SPORTS IS EASY; IT'S BEING ACTIVE IN SPORTS MANAGEMENT THAT POSES A MORE SERIOUS CHALLENGE. SINCE ASSUMING HER POST AS THE NEWEST OF FOUR COMMISSIONERS OF THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION (PSC) IN MARCH 2001, THE BUZZ ON THIS ADMINISTRATION'S APPOINTEE IS THAT SHE WAS CHOSEN ONLY BECAUSE SHE AND HER APPOINTER, PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, WERE CHILDHOOD PALS AND *ASSUMPTIONISTAS*. AWARE OF THE RUMOR, CARRION DISMISSES IT WITH A LAUGH AND PREFERS TO BELIEVE THAT SHE GOT THE JOB "BECAUSE OF MY CAPABILITIES!" SHE EXCLAIMS.

"Let me tell you something about [President Arroyo]," says Carrion, who actually replaced previous PSC commissioner Leonardo Celles when he decided to run for public office. "She will not put you in a [government] position just because you're friends, which is why she's misunderstood by a lot of people [who expect favors from her]. You'll have to prove to her first that you're capable of the job. If you're not capable, then she will not even embarrass you by putting you in a position that you cannot hack."

Years of competitive badminton and softball as a college student in the US exposed this commissioner early to the rigors of athletic life. But it was when she took up aerobics while she and her former husband (the comedian Buddy Norton) managed a curio shop in an Arizona Mall that Carrion felt a real connection. "It's my true love," she admits passionately. "Teaching aerobics is the most wonderful gift I have given myself. It made me realize that I could be a leader."

And how. After conducting classes in the US health spa where she first learned the moves, she brought aerobics back to Manila in the '80s and taught the routine until the demand for her sessions boomed. "I went from teaching three times a week to three times a day!" she guffaws. As founder of the Association of Fitness Professionals, Carrion invited several international aerobics instructors to educate fitness-crazy Filipinos on the breakthroughs in exercise and nutrition. She also opened doors for talented Pinoys to participate in aerobics competitions abroad. Two years ago, when the delegates she sent bagged a world championship in their division, Carrion described the success as a culmination of all that she had dreamed and worked for in aerobics. "God let me fulfill my mission," she says. "And after we won, I became commissioner the next year." Ironically, there were no splashy press releases to announce her achievements; still, one friend kept herself well informed.

"When she was still vice president, our friends would sometimes ask her, 'Gloria, has Cynthia left already?' And she would tell them because she always knew where I was and what my activities were," reveals Carrion of President Arroyo. "Every time I would win a championship, she would be the one cheering, 'Hay Cynthia, thank you!'"



Carrion feels she's up to any task at the PSC; below left, in her office

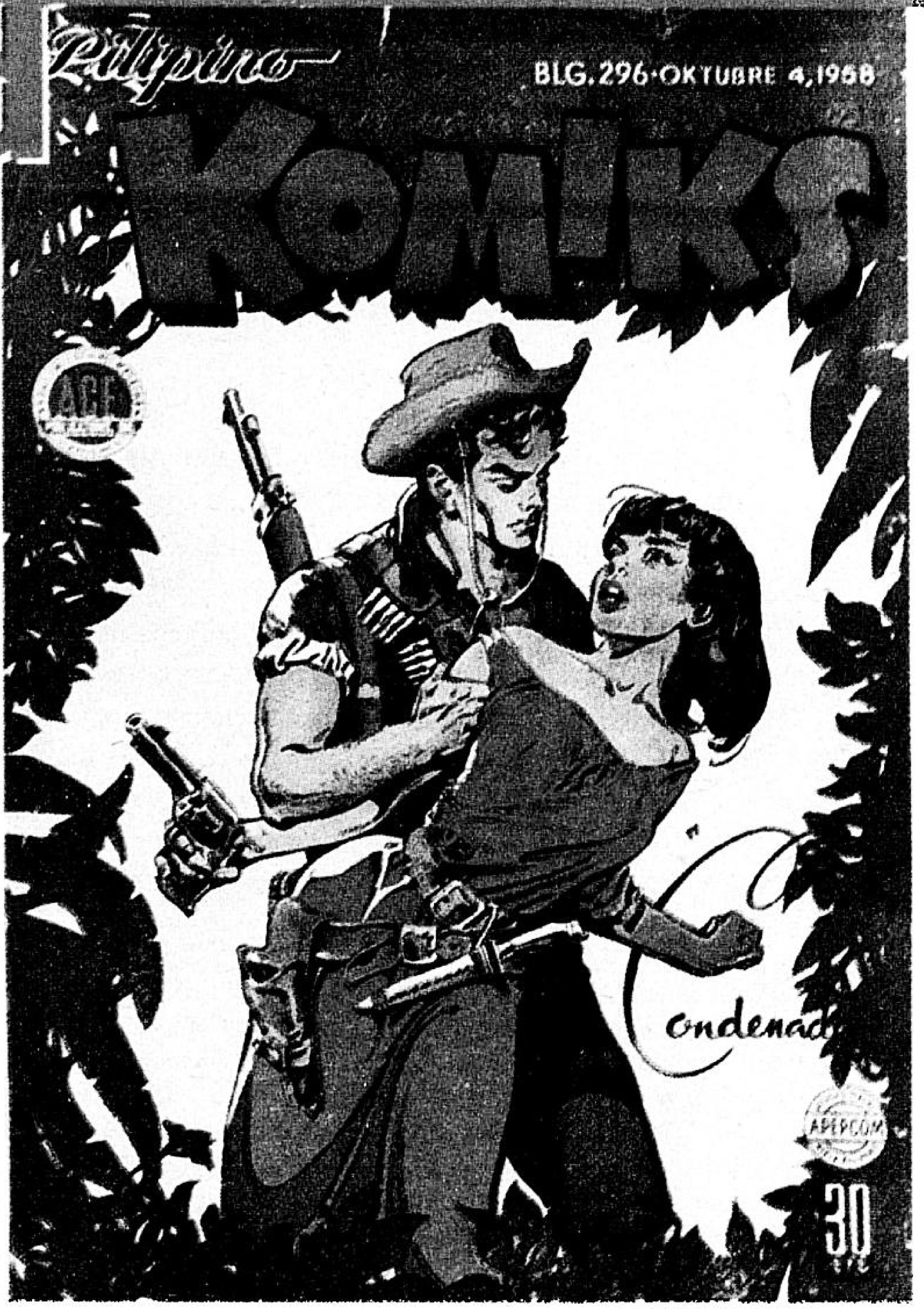
Tasked to handle the PSC's sectoral sports concerns, Carrion considers this "a good area to be in," as evidenced by the positive results of her first project last June, "Palaro Ng Batang Lansangan" (PNBL). Picking up where President Arroyo left off when she spearheaded PNBL as Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Carrion launched free sports clinics and basic training programs for thousands of street children from 17 municipalities. A fun mini Olympics followed, but Carrion hopes that with regular practice and discipline from the coaches, these kids will not only be inspired to advance to greater competitions (like the Batang Pinoy and National Open) but to pursue other important things in life as well. "It's a big, big project," avers the commissioner of the PNBL. "We have coaches train the kids every week to get them out of drugs and mischief. And who knows? We might even develop a future hero."

If Carrion had her way, this commissioner (who recently finished her MBA from the University of Murdoch in Perth, Australia) would like to see "the integration of the PSC, the Philippine Olympic Committee and the National Sports Association because we're not working together and we need to be united. We also have to give our athletes incentives, make sports a priority in schools, tap private companies for financial assistance, and develop good coaches." Obviously, teamwork is a concept that doesn't just apply to athletes. "Everything is about teamwork!" Carrion declares. "But how can we tell our athletes to have teamwork when we in our agency don't have it ourselves? If you preach it, you must do it yourself!"

Artwatch
by Eric S. Caruncho

An exhibit of the works of this gifted writer-illustrator at the CCP Little Theater should give GenXers a taste of what they missed during the Golden Era of Pilipino komiks—the art of breathing life into Filipino heroes of myths and legends

The Fantastic World of Francisco V. Coching



A virile well-muscled hero from a Coching cover circa 1958

FILIPINOS WHO CAME OF AGE AFTER THE GOLDEN ERA OF PILIPINO *KOMIKS* — AND THIS PRETTY MUCH INCLUDES EVERYONE UNDER 40 — ARE ALL THE POORER FOR NOT HAVING KNOWN THE WORKS OF TONY VELASQUEZ, MARS RAVELO, NESTOR REDONDO, ALFREDO ALCALA, AND PERHAPS THE GREATEST OF THEM ALL, FRANCISCO V. COCHING.

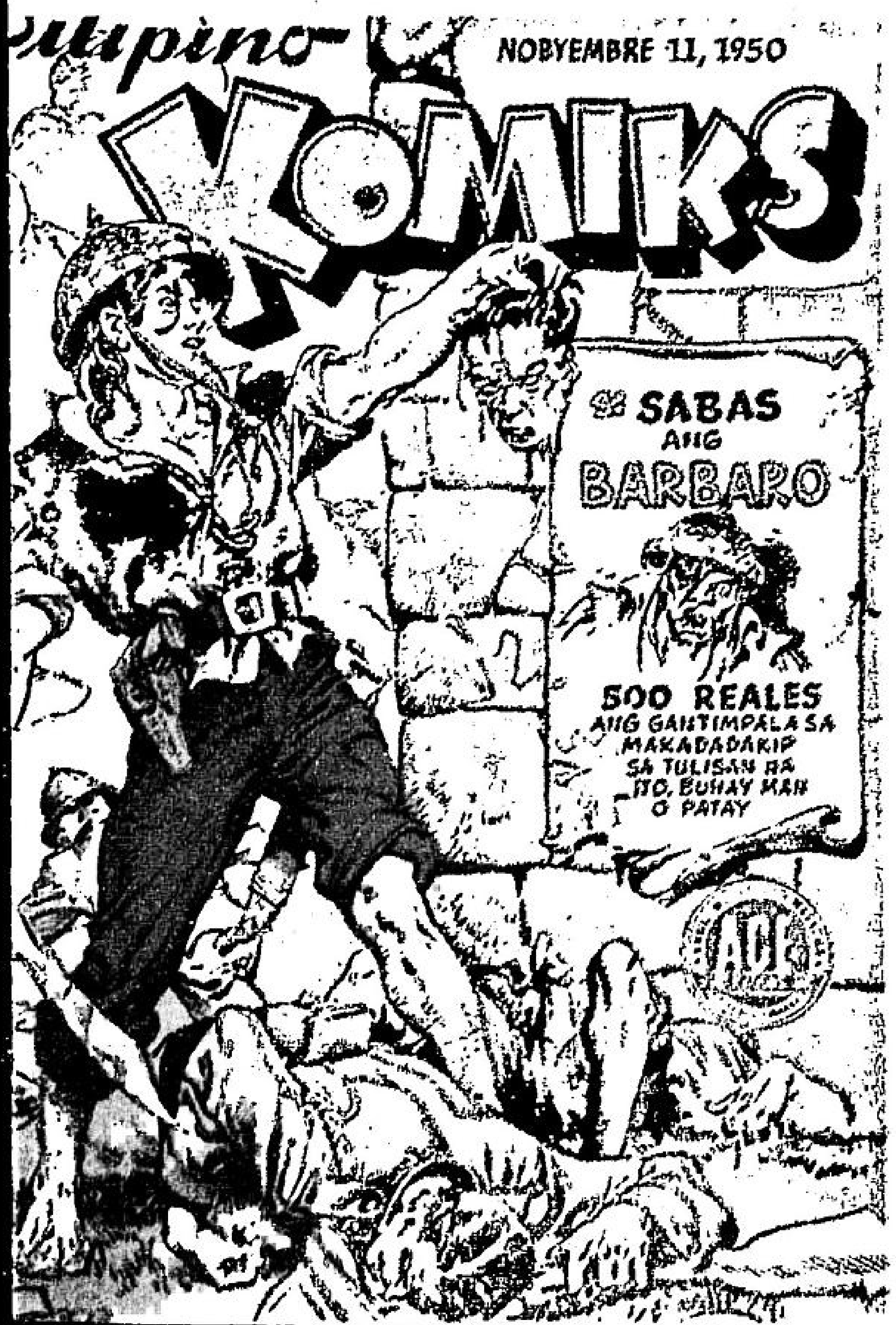
For roughly two decades, starting around 1949 when the genre reached its artistic maturity, the serial fortnightly *komiks* were where the Pinoy imagination ran riot. It spawned creatures of modern myth, some of whom — Darna, Dyesebel and Pedro Penduko — are still with us. While doing so, *komiks* helped propagate Pilipino as a national language, since non-native speakers were forced to learn Tagalog to keep up with the weekly foibles of Kenkoy and Rita Rits, and cliffhangers involving Hagibis, Barbaro and El Vibora. It also helped birth the modern movie industry, since most films were based on plots and characters initially serialized and test-marketed in Pilipino, Hiwaga and Espesyal Komiks.

Television eventually eclipsed the *komiks* as the prime entertainment medium and the pathetic few that remain in print today are barely recognizable, the malformed degenerate descendants of a once proud breed.

But in their heyday, Filipino *komiks* illustrators were among the best in the world. American comic book giants Marvel and DC found a motherlode of talent in Manila, and Alfredo Alcala, Nestor Redondo and Alex Niño were among the artists lured to lucrative positions of prominence and respect in the US.

Similar offers were dangled before Coching (whom "Rip Kirby" creator Alex Raymond, it is said, considered the best in the world), but he was content to remain where he was, entertaining his loyal fans.

Born in 1919, Coching's father was the popular novelist Gregorio Coching, from whom he no doubt inherited some of his storytelling flair. Despite having only a fifth grade education and no formal art training, Francisco had a wild, uninhibited imagination and raw talent to spare. An apprenticeship in Liwayway magazine gave him his start in the *komiks* trade. This was interrupted by the war, during which Coching joined the Hunter-ROTC guerrillas.


ilipino
NOBYEMBRE 11, 1950
KOMIKS
SABAS ANG BARBARO
500 REALES
ANG GANTIMPALA SA MAKADADAKIP SA TULISAN NA ITO, BUHAY MAN O PATAY

A taste of the graphic circa 1950

The postwar years saw the full flowering of his art, however, when he found his forte in action-adventure stories. He created Hagibis, a Pinoy analogue to Tarzan; Sabas, an 1860s anti-Spanish swashbuckler; and the *anting-anting* wielding folk hero Pedro Penduko.

Coching's panels are distinctive in that they are fairly bursting at the seams with virile energy, as well-muscled heroes strike dramatic poses and explode into action. Not only did Coching render his pages in mind-boggling detail, with a richness in line and shading that remains unsurpassed, he was also a master of the visual vocabulary of the *komiks*, choosing the most dramatic angle, zooming in for the decisive moments, creating detailed, historically accurate backdrops for his stories, and moving the plot along at a brisk pace. He was also a rarity in that he wrote and illustrated his own stories, whereas most serials were collaborations between a writer and an illustrator.

Many of the genre's pioneers died lonely and forgotten. Tony Velasquez, creator of "Kenkoy," whom many consider the father of Pilipino *komiks*, committed suicide after being evicted from his home, bitter and penniless. But Coching, it seems, was also a master of the art of living. Despite numerous lucrative offers from the States, he chose to remain in his old studio in Valhalla St., Pasay. In 1973, when *komiks* began their long, sad decline, he retired from full-time illustrating to better attend to his grandchildren and his hobbies: golf and dancing. He was slowed down by emphysema and a motorcycle crash (at age 75!) during his last years. He died in 1998, four months short of his 80th birthday, leaving a legacy that is still vibrant and captivating, though now seldom seen.

A taste of what we've been missing can be had on Oct. 11, when the Art Studies Foundation, the National Council for Culture and the Arts and the Cultural Center of the Philippines open an exhibit of Coching's panels at the CCP Little Theater Lobby and launch "Komiks: Katha at Guhit ni Francisco V. Coching," a book of essays on Coching's art.

Cover Story

by Becky N. Paleracio

Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication

photographs by Mike Alquinto

Award-winning broadcast journalist Jessica Soho reports on how fear of math pushed a simple probinsyana into a TV career at a time when pretty faces, big hair and flawless skin dominated the news screens

The Accidental Journalist

THEY'D PROBABLY MAKE IT TOO AS SENATORS OR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES HAD THEY CHOSEN TO RUN, BUT RESPECTED JOURNALISTS DEAN ARMANDO J. MALAY, JESSICA SOHO AND SHEILA CORONEL HAVE MORE GOING FOR THEM THAN JUST NAME AND FACE RECALL. THE THREE WERE RECENTLY CHOSEN OUTSTANDING JOURNALISTS BY THE METROBANK FOUNDATION AND THE ASIAN INSTITUTE OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION FOR THEIR EXCEPTIONAL CRAFTSMANSHIP, PROFESSIONALISM, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, PERSONAL INTEGRITY AND, IN THE CASE OF VETERAN MEDIA MAN MALAY, LEGACY TO THE PROFESSION.

Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism's Sheila Coronel, of the fearless reports on the Estrada mansions among others, was named Outstanding Print Journalist, while Soho of GMA-7 News and Public Affairs was chosen Outstanding Broadcast Journalist. Retired university dean Malay was cited for his Distinguished Leadership in Journalism. The three were selected from among 60 top tri-media journalists in the country and will be honored in formal awarding ceremonies on October 26 at the Metrobank Plaza, Makati City.

Soho, currently head of GMA-7's Special Assignments Team and head reporter-host-producer of several of the station's award-winning news programs, has 16 years of exceptional work as a broadcast journalist behind her. Soho is also one of this year's TOWNS (for The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service) awardees. Here's Jessica in her own words:

Segment 1: Never in my dreams

I never planned to become a journalist; I wanted to be a lawyer. In fact, I was taking up political science at UP (Diliman) to prepare for law school when I discovered that the course had four required math subjects. *Eh* Algebra *pa lang, hirap na hirap na 'ko.* So I shifted to a course with only one math subject — journalism. Then Louie Beltran, *the* veteran journalist, became my teacher. This big man would come to class and herald us with his exploits. It was inspiring, really, and I said to myself, I could be a journalist. But even then, I was thinking, I'd finish journalism then go to law school.

There were only three dailies at that time—Bulletin Today, Daily Express and Times Journal, and all of them held office at Port Area, near the pier. So I was not really eager to go into print journalism. So I went to Channel 7 and applied for a job. Any job. Fortunately, there was a news crew without a reporter, and I was it.

Segment 2: Becoming one of the guys

My very first assignment was a feature on the test run of the LRT (Light Rail Transit), touted as the new mass transport. They must

On the job: "Everything I know about broadcasting I learned at GMA"

have liked what I did because they gave me more assignments. But I did not have broadcast communication subjects in college. So when I got to Channel 7, I had to learn everything — how to write for the video, how to visualize (which was the hardest part for me), how to use my voice, how to budget the time allotted to me, how to operate the machines... I learned broadcasting the hard way... I was fortunate to have mentors like Rey Vidal, Tina Monzon-Palma and Tony Seva. But more than that, I think I was lucky to have good cameramen. Ric Villegas was my cameraman for the longest time and I think he shaped my career into what it is today.

Looking back, I think I had two things that really worked for me—luck and good timing. I was assigned to cover the defense and military beat during the turbulent transition years in the mid-'80s to the early '90s when so many man-made and natural disasters happened. I became known for covering the insurgency problem and disasters. I wouldn't be surprised if people gave me the monicker, Calamity Jess.

Segment 3: Hazards of the trade

I've done so many stories since I started out in 1985 that it's difficult to pinpoint exactly what I'd consider a turning point. People say I became a household name when we did the story on the Spratley Islands. And there was this big typhoon Unsang sometime in November 1987. The typhoon was raging; my cameraman and I went with a rescue helicopter to cover rescue operations in Marikina. The heavy downpour swelled the Markina River and everything seemed to have disappeared under murky waters. People were hanging onto trees... a family was stranded in the middle of a river. Our helicopter swooped dangerously low to get those people. It was really scary, but we plucked those people out of there and we got the story.

A sacred, unwritten code in the game is if you want to chicken out on an assignment; tell the Desk before you are sent to the field. Once you're in the field, wala nang atrasan. I'm so fortunate to have had hard-working and enterprising cameramen.. I remember when we were covering the siege at Cawa-cawa, Zamboanga. My cameraman figured that our safest bet was to get our shot between the two tanks standing by near the scene. We got the story with nary a scratch.

Needless to say, my friends and of course my family are always concerned about my safety and security. If my father had his way, he would opt for me to take another job. But I love this job. I won't deny that many assignments have inherent dangers. For instance, while we were covering the December 1989 coup, we got lost somewhere in Makati and became moving targets for both the warring factions. Then sometimes for "I-witness," we would take boat rides in the dead of the night despite the rolling waves. Dangerous, yes, but it's all part of the job.

Segment 4: The best man for the job is a woman

When I was still a rookie reporter, our bosses at GMA-7 were mostly men. But I never really experienced discrimination. I was even assigned to the defense and military beat. I've never really given it much thought, but being a woman journalist in the world of macho men has its advantages. I got special treatment a few times (*laughs*). I think today, women in the industry are doing great. At the GMA-7 newsroom, it's mostly women who are running the show...

When I started out, there was a certain mold in the industry: a pretty face, big hair, flawless skin. And there I was — *probinsyana* (my roots are in La Union), *parang pinabili lang ng suka...* (*laughs*). If people were polled on who's going to make it and who won't, I'd probably land in the second category. But I got by through hard work. I think that's how I made my mark: *mukhang probinsiyana pero tama naman yung sinasabi* (naïve looking but smart). (*laughs*)

Segment 5: Real people, real emotions

My most memorable stories in terms of the glory they have brought me and my organization are "Kidney for Sale" and *"Kamao"* which won for GMA-7 the very first Peabody Award, considered the equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize or the Oscars in broadcast journalism. These stories are about ordinary people in extraordinary situations.

Interviewing prominent personalities is certainly fascinating. But in terms of honesty and courage, I consider most memorable my interviews with the common *tao. Pag kausap mo sila, wala silang itinatago. Bubuksan nila sa iyo ang kanilang buong pagkatao... kung iiyak sila, talagang iyak* (They open up their lives to you and cry unabashedly if they feel like it.) I recently interviewed some domestic helpers in Hong Kong for "I-Witness." One of them almost had a breakdown while relating her story. Her grief was palpable. Can you imagine the irony of leaving your children behind to care for other people's children, and then learning that your husband has squandered your earnings on another woman?

I used to think that objectivity is the end-all be-all of journalism. But then, over the years, I learned that to become a better writer, you have to have empathy. Only when you share in their sorrows or joys can you see and truly understand who these people are. Then you can come up with not just a good documentary but a compassionate account of human experience. Objectivity helps you to focus on the story, but it is empathy that makes your story humane.

Segment 6: TV as kingmaker

Television has a tendency to turn you into a celebrity, but basically, I think of myself as a journalist. If it were possible, I would like to disappear into the woodwork. I don't want to be the story. I want to hear the story and then tell the story because I am a journalist.

Segment 7: The making of a good journalist

Bribery, or the so called envelopmental journalism, is always a sensitive issue. We, at GMA-7, really put our foot down and say no. I think this policy has paid off in terms of the reputation that our news organization enjoys. Another advantage is that we really are

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By harnessing the Pinoy love for ex[illegible] the twentysomethings behind Pinoy[illegible] created the country's busiest message[illegible]

The Gift of Exchange

THE story begins humbly enough. In 1999, New Jersey-based doctor Mike Nolledo was enjoying posting on an Internet bulletin board for people interested in electronics, but felt constrained because he couldn't discuss anything else. It dawned on him that Filipinos would be perfect participants in a message board because they loved voicing their opinions. Armed with the idea of putting up a website where Filipinos can talk about anything, he returned home and hooked up with brother Nico Nolledo, nephew Jude Turcuato and friend Mike Palacios. By July 12, PinoyExchange.com was born, operated in the partner's spare time and own equipment. Jude, then a TV panelist for the UAAP basketball games, discussed the site on air and encouraged viewers to post their views on the hardcourt action. As his TV catchphrase goes: kaboom! Today, PinoyExchange.com, PEx for short, is the busiest message board in the country. "We have 268,000 regular visitors," Jude, who is PEx president, explains, "from as far as the Middle East and the US, but 70 percent of them are based locally." Now partly owned by iAyala, the site has already garnered 1.1 million posts — more than 10 times any other local message board and averages 20 millions hits a month. The company now has full time employees working in their Makati Stock Exchange digs. Pinoys can engage others in an exchange of views about pretty much anything, safe behind nicknames. And it has become a way of life for thousands of PExers who visit the site daily for their PEx fix. Jude, who is known as "Kaboom!" in PEx, runs the company together with Mike "Mikoid" Palacios, who is lead designer, and Nico, or "Nix," who is in charge of business development. Taking the site's success in stride, Jude says that he still looks forward to growing even more. "It started as a hobby, but it's already a lot bigger than we imagined," he states, "but I think it can still get better." Post that on your board. Together with marketing and promotions heads Charo "CaRaMBa" Limaco and Madeleine "Leigh" de Guzman, three PEx founders post their own views on the following queries from **SIM***, as only PExers can:*

What, in a zip, is PinoyExchange.com's mission?

Kaboom!: Pinoyexchange's mission is to build, nurture and provide services to Filipino communities worldwide anchored on its website.

CaRaMBa: PinoyExchange aims to provide an avenue where Filipinos from all over the world can speak their minds, be informed, communicate with each other and meet new friends.

Why should the average Filipino visit your site?

Kaboom!: The average Filipino will learn a tremendous amount about his/her culture and how Filipinos around the world think, act, and interact. There is something relevant for every Filipino whether they are above or below average.

Leigh: A Filipino should visit and become a member of PEx, because it's a venue for you to be able to discuss different things with thousands of people, from a discussion as simple as "How much is/was your allowance" to something as deep as "Do you have a personal relationship with God?"

How much time do you spend on the web everyday?

CaRaMBa: The minute I turn on my PC, I'm connected to the Internet. So that's eight hours of being online. Out of the eight hours that I'm online in the office, I spend about four hours surfing, finding out what people are talking about, what they want, what's the latest. I go online from home, too, before I go to sleep.

If you could come up with an email addy that would properly describe you, what would it be?

Kaboom!: Jude@sports.fan

Leigh: It would be mads@iwant2makeadifference.com

CaRaMBa: caramba@OC.com

What is your favorite site on the web?

Everybody: http://www.pinoyexchange.com

What is your favorite site in the world?

Nix: Http://

Romy Homillada

Exchange experts: (L to R) Madeleine de Guzman, Mike Palacios, Jude Turcuato, Charo Limaco and Nix Nolledo www.pinoyexchange.com – Still my favorite place online or offline.

Leigh: For now, it must be Danjugan island, it's somewhere in Bacolod. This was where I did my thesis before, it's where the sun is great, the water is clear, the people of the near barangays are really nice and the island has a lot of lagoons, too. Such a nice place to relax and leave civilization for.

Kaboom!: In the world, I still like Chicago. I grew up there and nothing beats the Windy City.

What is your favorite digital gadget?
Mikoid: My digital kick varies every quarter. Early this year, it was my HP digicam. Now it's my Ericsson T39. Incidentally, I no longer use a PDA, though that Ipaq gizmo is awfully purdy.

What is your favorite analog or non-techie possession?
Kaboom!: Most of my possessions are tech gadgets. If anything, I have this small basketball with the autograph of Johnny Abarrientos, Hector Calma, and Dale Singson, my favorite point guards in the country. I also had an autographed picture of Kevin Johnson that I got when he visited here a few years back but my brother has it now in Chicago.

Mikoid: My Ovation Celebrity acoustic guitar. My guitar case is signed by all these cool artists and bands – The Dawn, Color it Red, Cynthia Alexander, the APO, etc, etc.

What is your favorite food or beverage for getting all wired up for the day?
Leigh: A toss up between a chocolate drink and coffee during the early part of the day and iced tea during the afternoon.

Kaboom!: I actually don't usually eat breakfast in the morning. I'm sure my mom will have a fit if she finds out so I hope she doesn't read this. But my favorite drink is Coke. I'm addicted to Coke.

Mikoid: Fried boneless *bangus* and something (not someone) hot and sweet in the morning, and one more after lunch.

Do you have actual bulletin boards?
Leigh: At home, I have a cork board that has been with me for the five years, I have pictures and some notes that people have passed to me during class before and where I place all my "things to do" and "do not forget list" for the next day. In the office we have a blue board for our goals and plans for PEx and the list of the "7 sins in the World" according to Mahatma Gandhi.

CaRaMBa: I have my own corkboard at home because I'm OC.

Nix: Nope. Everything is on the web.

What's the thing you love most about the Internet?
Mikoid: I love the fact that you're a few clicks away from just about everything. Click-click-click. I downloaded Dave Matthews' latest album. click-click-click. I dissed the President. Click-click-click. Damn Windows, crashed again!

Conversely, what do you hate most about it?
Nix: The bandwidth is too expensive here in the Philippines.

CaRaMBa: Security. I'm still not comfortable with buying online, even if I want to for the convenience.

What is the biggest upside to being in charge of PinoyExchange.com?
Kaboom!: You get to learn a lot from the character, behavior and personalities of people. It's actually hard work hosting Pinoyexchange and the biggest upside is seeing how the site has affected and in some cases changed people's lives for the better.

Is the Filipino truly ready to be wired?
Mikoid: The infrastructure is woefully inadequate and the costs are too high for it to get down to the C and D class. But I think that our middle class – the thinkers and policy-makers – are already citizens of the Internet, and that should help considerably. To be honest, we need it. We Pinoys need to interact and compete in a global economy, and the benchmarks to which we hold ourselves should be the ones applied around the world. This kind of global awareness requires that you be a "connected" person.

Poetry

Cliff's Edge

And once again, we are drawn
to this bench by the cliff, under
the lamp that flickers and winks
at us. And every blink foretells
the shimmer of morning announcing
the end of this dream. We cling
to each other, blinded, by the mist
that surrounds us and makes us
believe we are blessed by clouds.
Everything blurs. The house lights
in the valley below us are stars
lost in a black sea. If we go too far
we could miss the cliff's edge
and plunge into that solid sea
headfirst, breaking our bones
on the rocks. Children who hide
and seek each other every night
will find us, shattered, and cut
their tender fingers holding up
shards of our hearts to the light
of the summer moon's sly smile.

Naya S. Valdellon

Mga Bata Sa Ulan

langkay-langkay, nag-aagawan
wari'y kabuting
biglang nagsulputan
ang mga bata
sa buhos ng ulan

sugod, takbo't sibat
sa bunganga ng sasakyan
alay sa pasaherong bumababa
ang pangakong
di siya mababasa

papayungan, aalalayan
hanggang makarating
sa tuyo't ligtas
na silungan

kapalit ay kalansing
ng baryang pansamantalang
papawi sa
gutom at uhaw
ng mumunting tiyan

yayat, yapak
nguni't di yuko
ang mga bata sa ulan:
tanging payong ang sangga
sa unos ng buhay

Constancio C. de Guzman

First Person
by Loris Villarente Acosta

We are all tough when we face and survive a great crisis. But toughest are those who, given the choice to save their blessings for themselves, would rather comfort others falling behind

Tough

I HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT I WAS MADE OF STERNER STUFF. I WAS NEVER ONE TO BREAK DOWN WHEN FACED WITH DIFFICULTIES. BUT I LEARNED WHAT TOUGH REALLY MEANT AFTER I DELIVERED MY FIRST BABY PREMATURELY, AT SIX MONTHS.

(Editor's Note: We want to know what people are thinking these days. Tell us what's on your mind and in your heart. And no, you don't have to be under 30 or over 65 to contribute to this column. We welcome contributions from all ages)

The sight of her in the incubator was heartbreaking. She weighed a mere 2.12 pounds and was sleeping beneath a tangled web of tubes attached to her body. A machine helped her breathe and another monitored her pulse rate and heartbeat. Her rib cage was visible under the creased skin that covered her body. Her head was too large for her emaciated body, and her ears were still attached to the sides of her head. She didn't look like a baby at all.

But she is my baby and she was in distress. The good news was she was very active. She would kick her tiny legs and stretch her small body as if to explore the sudden expanse of her new surroundings. All that activity must have taken its toll on her because her pediatrician wasn't sure she'd last the day. But she did. She stayed in the incubator for three months because of her precarious condition, with the doctors telling me she might not last the next day. And each time she did.

When she was discharged three months later, she weighed three pounds. Not a few times did we rush her to the ER whenever we failed to resuscitate her. Her hemoglobin count was still low so she received two more blood transfusions. At seven months, she developed a hernia. Because of her abnormal hemoglobin level, each drop of her blood was precious and losing much of it in an operation would have been too risky. But the hernia was taking sleep and energy away from her so we opted for surgery. The operation was a success and she began to gain weight.

Since then, her condition has been improving steadily. She's now a year old and has just started eating solid food. We are still paying the hospital bills but are thankful that she has survived everything. She was recently diagnosed as having cerebral palsy, a kind of brain damage that limits one's control over the muscles.

People have told my husband and I how amazed they are at the strength and composure we've shown despite all that has happened to our firstborn. But she's such a happy baby that compared to most adults I know, including myself, she's the one with all the strength and composure. My baby's face hardly shows the hardships she's been through. She is tougher than I am.

I know this is just the beginning of her journey as a "special child." There will be more heartaches ahead as cruel stares and ignorant remarks may be thrown her way. I am tough, but I fear the emotional effect of unkind comments and the ridicule of other kids when she grows up. I don't want to hear people say, "*Sayang, magandang bata pa naman*" as if her ailment spells a dead end for her. I want her to be as independent as possible. It wouldn't hurt, too, if I were rich so I could afford the therapy sessions and hospital bills and make life a little easier for her.

There are times when I think of how lucky other mothers are and they don't even realize it. While they sigh at the sight of scattered toys that they have to pick up everyday, I wish my baby could at least manage to hold her bottle. While some moms would complain about their hyperactive babies running about, I wish my baby would start turning over and crawl. While other moms get frustrated when their babies break their bric-a-brac, I wish my baby could somehow find a way to touch my face.

On the other hand, there are women out there who have lost a child or could never conceive. For them I take the challenge to be the mother of this baby. While my experience may seem too much for a young mother to go through, there are women who think of me as more blessed.

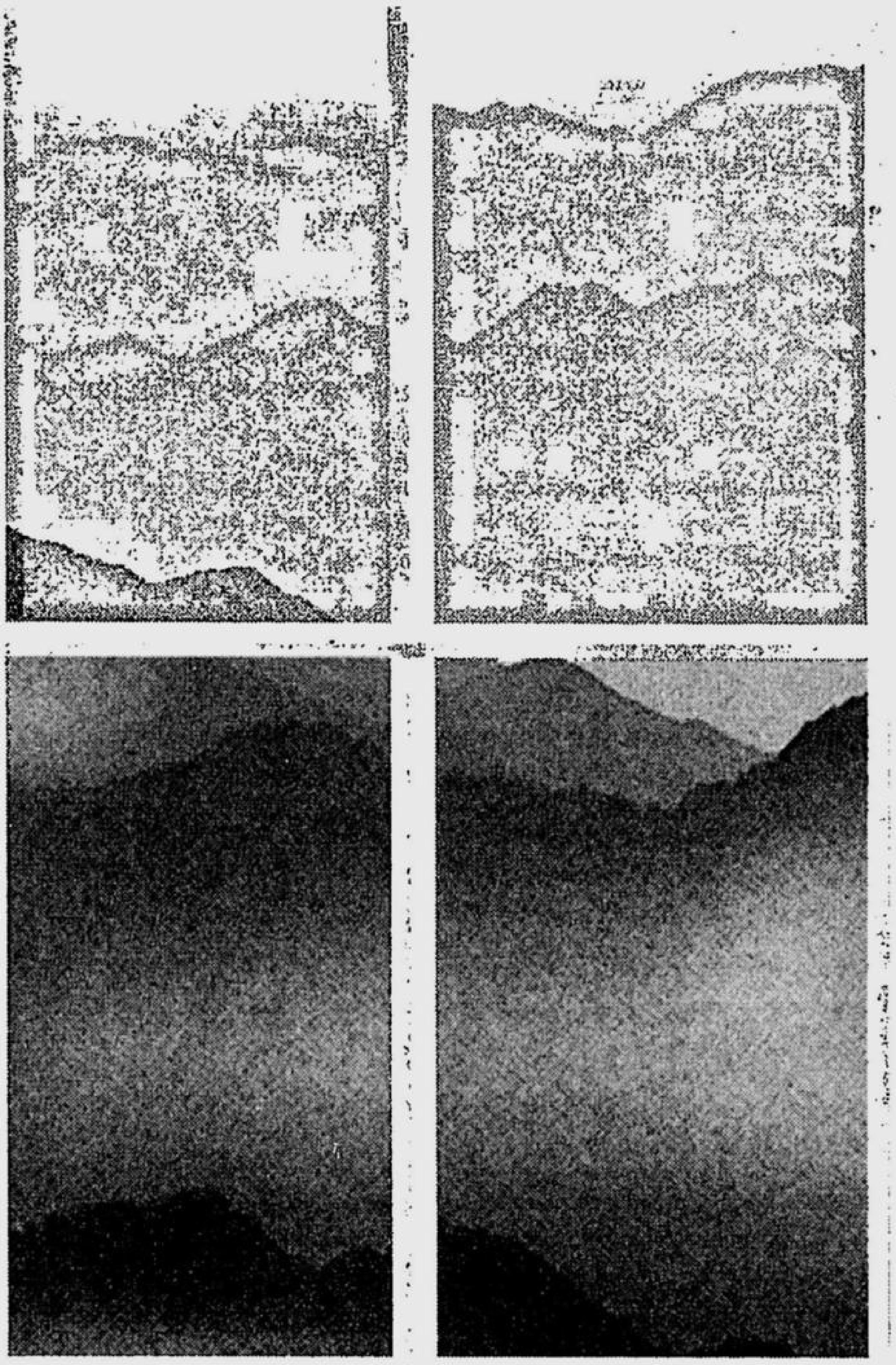


Illustration by STEPH BRAVO

My daughter is not perfect. She may walk funny or may never walk at all, may speak with a slur or may never speak at all. But she is the perfect medium through which God seeks perfection from all who are faithful. Because of her, I have been reassured that there are still people who would go through great lengths to help. Friends and family helped with our expenses. The neighbor of an uncle shared her breast milk for months when mine didn't last long enough. My mom approached various institutions for aid and donated her own blood for my baby's last transfusion. My mother-in-law, aside from taking care of her family of six, graciously took care of my baby while my husband and I worked to raise the money we needed. Others took a few minutes of their time to pray for our child.

I guess we are all tough when we face and survive a great crisis. But toughest are those who, given the option to go on with their lives and save their blessings for themselves, choose to comfort others who are falling behind.

The author is 25 years old, the eldest of four sisters and the proud mother of Lucille Viktoria.

by Fr. Ruben J. Villote

The Life of a Servant

The life of a servant of God has to be a life of prayer and listening to the small voice of God in the silence of the heart. If we listened only to our own lunatic voices, that would make terrorists of us all

WE WERE MADE TO BELIEVE THAT THE LIFE OF A SERVANT IS A LIFE OF *PAGSUNOD* (OBEDIENCE). THE CONCEPT OF *PAGSUNOD* INCLUDES AN EXPLICIT AWARENESS OF THE LAW AND OF THE PENALTY FOR NOT OBEYING THE LAW.

The threat of punishment can cause fear: fear of being caught, fear of embarrassment and fear of pain, all of which can cause tremendous stress and anxiety to the person obeying or disobeying the law.

Besides *pagsunod*, however, there is another form of relationship between a servant and the one he or she is supposed to serve. It is called *pagsusunuran*. It is like the *pagsusunuran* among friends, brothers and sisters, parents and their children, teachers and their pupils.

Unlike *pagsunod*, *pagsusunuran* is not merely about obeying a law and about *being punished* for disobeying the law. Rather, *pagsusunuran* is about listening with the heart; resonating and anticipating the wishes, feelings and needs of one another. Only a truly loving person can do this.

Ang taong nagmamahal ay palaging nakikinig, palaging nakikiramdam, palaging nakikitunog sa taong minámahal niya; tinutupad at sinusunod niya ang kalooban nito kahit walang hayag na utos, kahit walang kaakibat na parusa, kahit walang gantimpala, at kahit walang bayad. (The person who loves always listens and is sensitive to the loved one's feelings and wishes, even without words, without sanctions, without rewards.)

Jesus said: "Whoever accepts my commandments and obeys them is the one who loves me." (Jn. 14:21)

The life of a servant of God therefore has to be a life of prayer. For prayer is about listening to the small voice of God in the silence of the heart. When we listen to God's silence in our heart (solitude), we begin to move from mere *pagsunod* toward *pagsusunuran*, an intimate relationship between God and His servant who has now become a friend and an adopted child.

Obedience to God is therefore not mere subservience to the laws of God and His Church. Obedience is listening with the heart at prayer. Failure to listen can lead to disconnection, loneliness, self-centeredness and absurdity.

As a servant of God's Word, I want to be known not merely as one who can do many things for God but as one who prays and listens unceasingly to the little voice of God in my heart commanding me to do His Holy Will always, without guilt, without fear, without favor—even without a bonus. After all, I am only a servant doing the will of my Master who is also my Beloved.

Both America and the terrorists claim to be the servants of God's Word. The God of Islam and Christianity are one and the same God. The Word of that God is about peace, justice and compassion. America and her enemies must listen to God's small voice in their hearts, and not only to their own angry voice shouting about vengeance, hatred and blood.

If we listened only to our own lunatic voices, that would make terrorists of us all.

A world at prayer is a world at peace. Let us try God for a change. He is the Faithful One.

The true Muslim and the true Christian both want peace but the peace they want is not a mere truce or a ceasefire which are phony forms of peace brought about by human strategy and political diplomacy. The kind of peace which the Muslim and Christian are praying for is the *ashalom* of the Koran and the *shalom* of the Gospel, which begin in the human heart and end in the sincere acceptance of one another. This is the peace brought about by the power of Allah and, for the Christian, through the healing power of Christ's love.

For both Muslim and Christian, such peace is possible only when each feels secure in his own conviction without having to feel threatened by the missionary zeal of the other. The Cross of Christianity and the Crescent of Islam are not meant to be symbols of war but of peace. The sword and the Kris, therefore, have absolutely no place in the Christian Church and in the Muslim mosque.

The only power which the true Christian and the true Muslim pray together to achieve is the power of God's Spirit which alone can heal wounds and bring about the peace which no human power can give. It is that peace, and no other, that we want. And we want it now. *Ashalam mu laykum, shalom.* Peace be with you!

If I were blind
If I were a cripple
If I were deaf, dumb, dying
But I am not.

If I did not have
Love
Intellect
a Home...
But I have.

If all hope is gone
and I could not try...
But I can.

Thank God for the miracle
of me!

The Artist Abroad

by Luis H. Francia

Art in a Time of Terror

Perhaps the most moving manifestation of New York City's feelings has been in the impromptu memorials that have sprung up, not just for the loss of lives but of innocence. They are assemblages of voices and viewpoints, of everyday materials, that relegate galleries and museums into temporary irrelevance

FOR TWO DECADES I LIVED IN A SOHO ADDRESS WHERE, ONCE I STEPPED OUT ONTO THE STREET, I COULD SEE THE WORLD TRADE CENTER TWIN TOWERS AND THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING. THE TWO SKYSCRAPERS, REMINDING ME MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE OF STACKS OF STAPLES, HELD DOWN ONE SIDE OF THE VISIBLE UNIVERSE, WHILE THEIR MAJESTIC GRAND DAME PINIONED THE OTHER.

Even when my wife and I moved to Queens, we could see this trinity on clear days — reassuring anchors of the known world. Then on a cloudless late summer Tuesday, as a city and the world watched horrified, the towers turned into gigantic funeral pyres, creating an indelible apocalyptic sight that will forever haunt New Yorkers. Now they are the burying place for innocent human beings of all colors, creeds, and sexual and political persuasions — victims of a cold-blooded terrorist act, one that deserves universal condemnation.

What does such an act mean? On a personal level, it means that my sense of everyday security has been graphically violated, and now every landmark and open area – every public space, from Grand Central Terminal to Washington Square Park — has acquired an air of menace. Paranoid thoughts attend our waking hours, whether contemplating a suicide bomber walking into Macy's during the Christmas season or onto a crowded subway car. Like no other event, the bombings serve as a dramatic reminder of how common (and how much more intense) this feeling of dread must be among the residents of places like Chechnya, Iraq, Northern Ireland, the Balkans, and the Middle East — wherever people have felt the bloody hand of terrorism. On September 11, the United States learned it was irrevocably a part of the real world.

How has New York coped? The city that prides itself on being brash, tough, and sophisticated has become for the moment a small town. More aware of our fragile mortality, people stop, talk, commiserate, cry in each other's arms. Everyone seems to have known someone, or known of someone, who was there or who would have been there. And almost everyone I know has joined the free-for-all discussion on the Internet, which has seen a tremendous upsurge in use, metamorphosing into an impromptu confessional box-cum-psychiatrist's couch-cum-pulpit, where a multitude of feelings and thoughts are vented, from the noble and high-minded to the downright ugly and racist.

"As the world watched horrified, the towers turned into gigantic funeral pyres"

One writer friend remarks she is dropping her Hamlet view of the world for a while, finding in her feelings of rage a sense of liberation. Someone else very wisely reminds us to view the tragedy in context, how US foreign policy has reaped the karmic whirlwind, for it has inflicted the kinds of deaths abroad so lamented in the collapse of the twin towers. In a jingoistic outburst, a member of a listserve tells him to love America or leave it. There were well-known voices, including the cultural critic and Palestinian Edward Said, Bill Moyers, and JoMa Sison, but the most compelling were the where-was-I-when-the towers-were-attacked stories. These often contradictory discourses, the multiplicity of views, have turned cyberspace into our global id.

But perhaps the most moving manifestation of the city's feelings has been in the impromptu memorials that have sprung up, from stoops and sidewalks to windows and parks – memorials not just for the loss of lives but of innocence. They are assemblages of voices and viewpoints, of everyday materials, that relegate galleries and museums into temporary irrelevance.

One of the most touching has been Union Square Park, on the border between east and west, between uptown and downtown. Walking through it the other day I felt I had entered a church, one without a preacher but with an attentive, sorrowful congregation. A church without walls but filled with flowers, candles, and prayers, whose pews are concrete steps, benches and trampled-on lawns, whose icons include the familiar — from the Virgin of Guadalupe to Ganesh — and the personal, whose myriad altars reflect all faiths. All names are here: Grijaldo, Lim, Dohan, Lai, Srinuan, Hague, Mori, Hinds, and so on. Knots of people, talking quietly, weave themselves into a fluid tapestry. Here the sacred meets the secular, the extraordinary the ordinary. Within three square blocks, an assemblage has grown organically, changing daily in a shifting, often startling, kaleidoscope of materials, people, moods. This is art at its most bare and effective, art that seeks not to be art but to embody both the unspeakable and the transcendent. Walking through it is a calming experience, making me forget for a while the stirring up of bigotry, never very far from the surface of American life. Here the overwhelming message is to rise above bloodlust, to view the suffering of everyone anywhere as equally painful. It is as religious as you can get without having religion and makes far more sense than any call to jihad or holy crusade or any assertion of righteousness. Our world is marked by far too many absences. Let us not create any others; let us simply create.

COVER STORY...from page 9

graduates of journalism and we do practice serious journalism. We don't put people in front of the camera just because they're pretty and they speak well. We invest in our people and train them.

We don't discriminate between male or female reporters, but we do have a tall order for them – they have to be good people. By this we mean having the right values. As journalists, we must have a moral ascendancy, we have to know what is right and what is wrong. It would certainly help if aspiring broadcast journalists were not squeamish about work. They have to be ready to get their hands and feet dirty, and must have stamina for long hours on the job. It helps if you are adventurous, daring (but not stupid), street smart (*marunong dumiskarte*) with a healthy sense of humor. Best of all, we would like to get people who are really hungry for news.

Segment 8: The downside of the job

Everyday, the schedules are so hectic. There are no routines to speak of, especially in the face of a late breaking story. You cannot really plan. Sometimes I get tired and I begin to ask myself: is it worth it? I try to keep my weekends free. Catch up on sleep, read, go to the bookstore, go malling with my nieces, eat Jollibee all day. I've read Katherine Graham's biography over and over. She's my idol. I also enjoy authors Amy Tan, Isabel Allende, among others. That's how I try to unwind and balance myself.

Maybe it's safe to say that I'm already successful, but I try not to be complacent. *Unang-una, hindi pa ako mayaman (laughs)*. I'm comfortable, but like anybody else, I also want to be financially secure. Although these days, I am really quite surprised when some applicants ask about how much they'd be getting if hired. Times really have changed. During our time, we did not ask about pay, although *siguro masama rin 'yun, ano? (laughs)*. Some friends kid me and say that the awards I've been getting should be a good excuse to ask my bosses for a raise. Maybe I should? *(laughs)* But then, I've never worked for the money. Money for me is a consequence of hard work. I often tell young people who want to go into the industry that they can't expect to become rich. You can be rich in terms of experience, learning, meeting a lot of people from all walks of life, things like that. The financial rewards may come later.

The only downside in my situation right now is that I've lost touch with a lot of friends, but thanks to e-mail, I was able to touch base with some of them. I have few personal friends. It's difficult to establish personal friendships because of the inherent competition in this field.

I also miss out on a lot of family occasions especially during the holidays. The Christmas season is always very hectic for us. While others sleep, we are on the road, looking for stories. Don't ask me about my love life; I don't have any (*laughs*). The work that I do is definitely not conducive to romance. It always gets in the way. But I do want to have a family of my own someday... hopefully.

Segment 9 — Reporters as citizens

I've always been an idealist. I think I owe that to my UP education and my upbringing as a Catholic. I am not, however, a card-carrying ideologue. I was too busy trying to do my job as a reporter, coping with deadlines, getting the right names, number of casualties, etc. to be really mindful of these things until recently, during the height of EDSA III. I was there, and I was bothered with the realization that we in the media still have a long way to go in enlightening the *masa* about issues and concerns confronting our nation.

Our upcoming program, "Jessica Soho Reports," to be aired on October 10, is a news-oriented program that highlights good journalism on television – timely, insightful, interesting. Its time slot is 11:30 p.m. after "Front Page." Our challenge here is to find a middle ground. The competition is stiff. A good program may not stand a chance if it does not sell, if nobody watches it. There are trashy shows and they rate, but we don't want that. "I-witness" is a success story for us, proof that good documentaries, good journalism sells. So far, I'm proud of the programs I've been involved in. I want to look back and say we did this show and it has redeeming values.

Segment 10: Giving back and dreaming on

I'm very happy to receive the Metrobank Foundation's Outstanding Broadcast Journalist award, specially with such formidable company as Philippine journalism's Dean Armando J. Malay and Sheila Coronel of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism. But I can't help feeling scared... *natatakot ako (laughs)*. With higher expectations, there is an inherent pressure to do better.

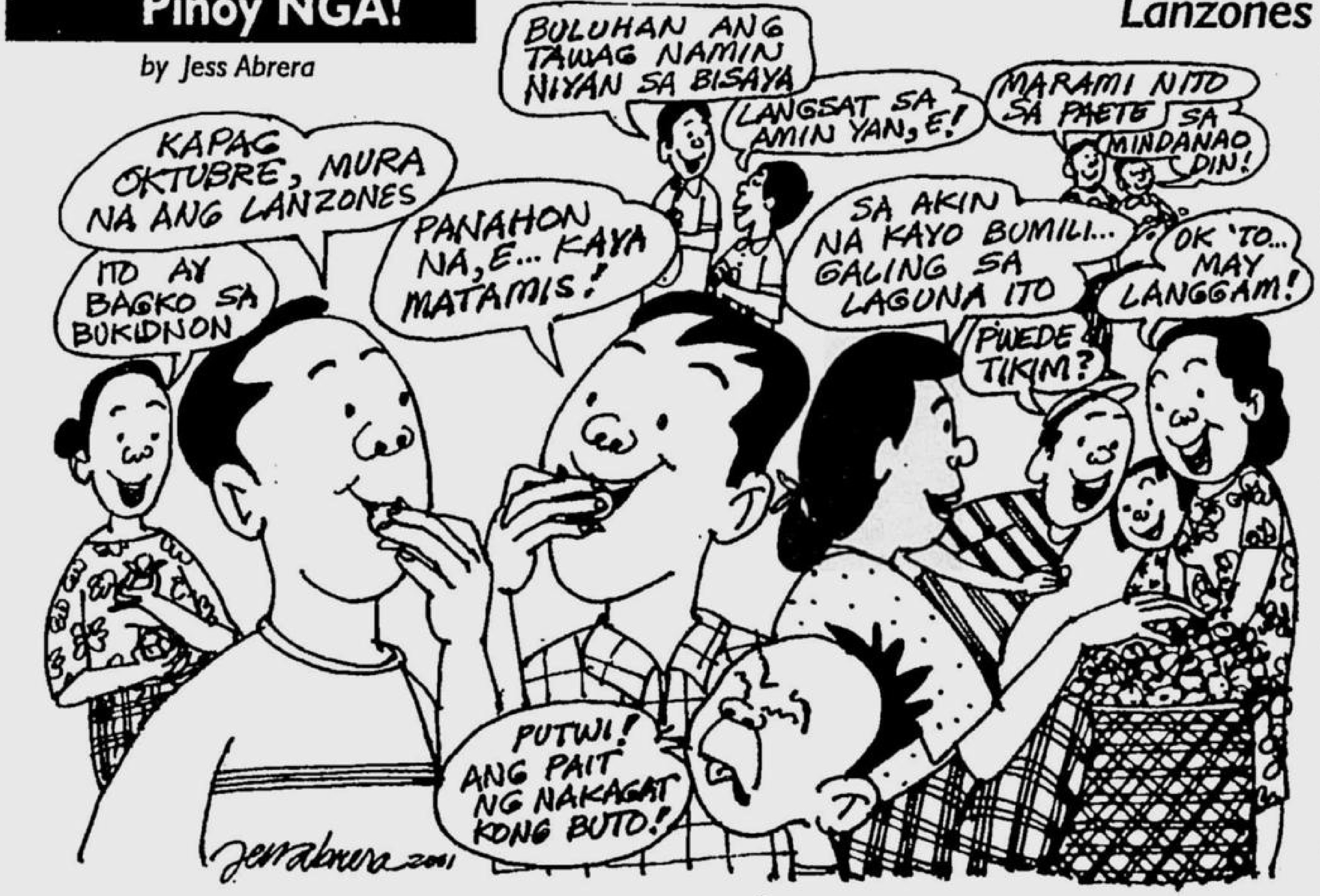
Matagal na ako hinahanting sa UP Mass Comm. It's also my dream to be able to teach. I think I am a closet teacher, and if there's one thing that I am proud of, it's having trained a lot of journalists who were able to make the grade in the industry. I feel a kind of satisfaction in helping pave the way for others. I'd also like to keep a journal. I've tried, but I find myself falling asleep in the middle of writing the day's account. So for now, I'll just keep all my notes and eventually, hopefully, *maiintidihan ko pa rin ang mga sulat ko...*

This is Jessica Soho... reporting.

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera

Lanzones


BULUHAN ANG TAWAG NAMIN NIYAN SA BISAYA
LANGSAT SA AMIN YAN, E!
MARAMI NITO SA PAETE
SA MINDANAO DIN!
KAPAG OKTUBRE, MURA NA ANG LANZONES
ITO AY BAGKO SA BUKIDNON
PANAHON NA, E... KAYA MATAMIS!
SA AKIN NA KAYO BUMILI... GALING SA LAGUNA ITO
OK 'TO... MAY LANGGAM!
PWEDE TIKIM?
PUTWI! ANG PAIT NG NAKAGAT KONG BUTO!
Jess Abrera 2001

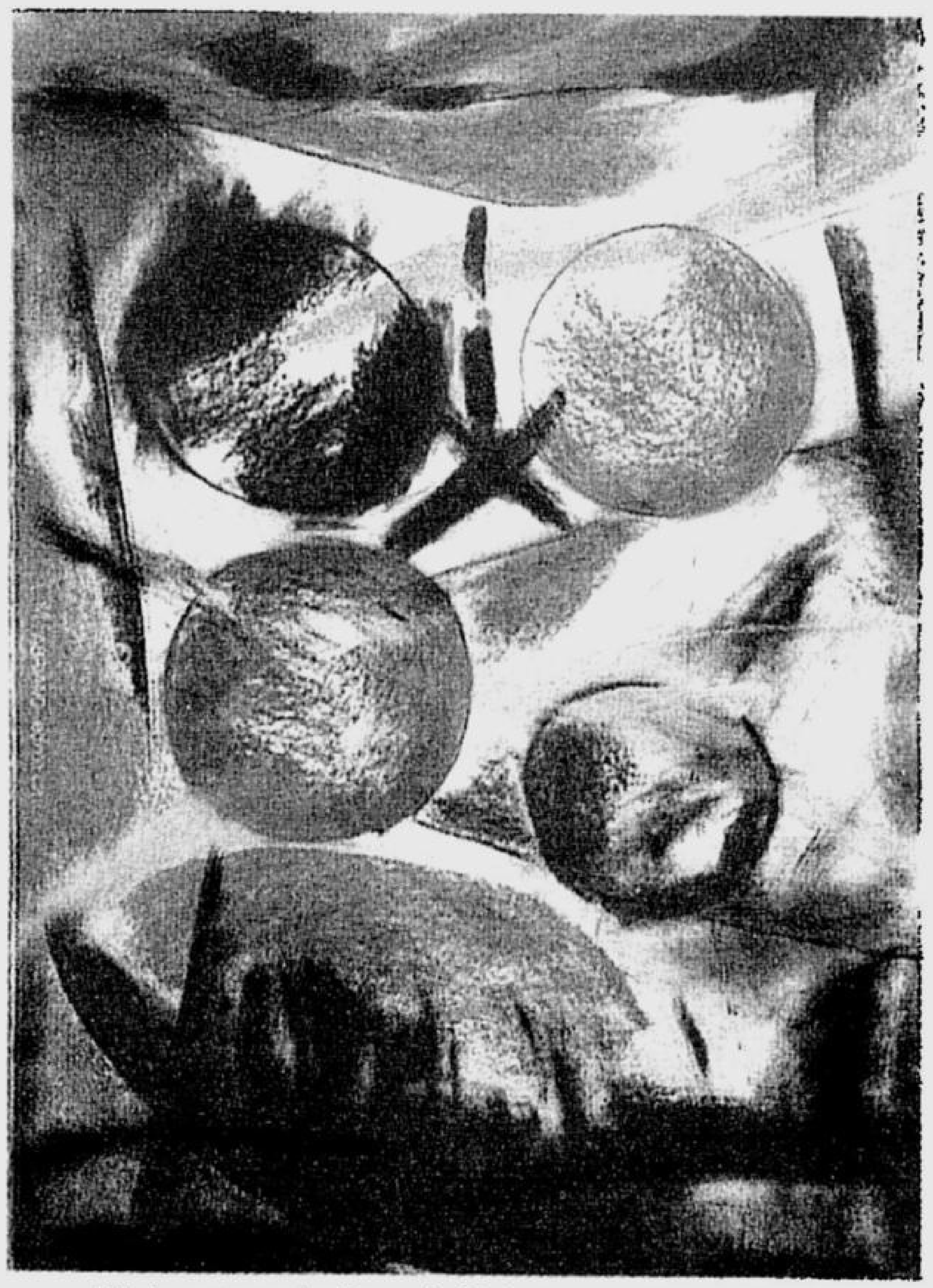
ENCOUNTER...from page 5

was the turning point. I enjoyed the tour so much, I decided to dance full time. I had two subjects left in college, but I didn't graduate. In 1995, when I resigned as CCP associate artistic director, I went back to UP. I was 43 years old and I wanted to finish my course, only to find out that it had been phased out from the curriculum! But I made an appeal, and *puede pala*. So in the 1996 graduation folio, I was the only name under BS Zoology. I was attending class, going on field trips. The first time I entered the classroom they thought I was the teacher. Why did I do it? I didn't have to prove anything, but it was a big issue between my parents and me that I didn't graduate. I just decided to go and get that degree. My father was a government official in the province of Quezon and my mom was a school teacher, but art was not an alien thing to us. I still go home to Lucena, though not as often as I would like. I would like to be more involved in the arts council there, to give something back.

This Week

Art

Sinauna, Sinumuli, an exhibit and sale of antique furniture, handicraft, accent pieces and accessories for homes and gardens, Oct. 8-19 at the Ugnayan Hall, Development Bank of the Philippines, Sen. Gil J. Puyat, Avenue cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City. For inquiries, call 815-0904 or 818-9511 loc. 2137 and 2103.



Works on paper by Fernando Modesto, on exhibit at The Drawing Room, Makati

New Work, Gerardo Tan's exhibit of installations and site-specific works at Big Sky Mind, 66 Doña Juana Rodriguez St., New Manila, QC until Oct. 21.

German artist**Axel** exhibits his latest works in acrylic on canvas at Firma, 616 J. Nakpil St., Malate until Oct.31. For details, call 525-5001.

Pardo de Leon's latest exhibition of paintings inspired by Russian ballet pieces, ongoing at the Lopez Museum Shop, G/F, Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Makati City until October 24. For details, call 898-0981.

Fernando Modesto presents his large drawings on paper at The Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, Metropolitan Avenue, Makati City until Oct. 17.

Kulayeye, watercolors by Yeye Calderon, until Oct. 19 at the Blind Tiger Bar and Gallery, 13 Visayas Ave., QC.

Still Lifes, Ofelia Gelvezon Tequi's solo exhibit at Finale Art Gallery, SM Megamall until Oct. 14.

Onstage

Gantimpala Theater's staging of Balagtas' immortal love story **Florante *at* Laura** goes onstage at the AFP Theater, Camp Aguinaldo today; RFC Theater/Cinema, Las Piñas on Oct. 19-20, and at the JCS Auditorium, Pedro Gil, Manila on Oct. 26-28 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. For tickets, call 899-5745 and 897-1533.

Teysi @ Tweynti, a series of shows celebrating Tessie Tomas' 20 years in show biz featuring all her memorable characters plus some new ones based on contemporary figures, Oct. 12, 13, 26 and 27, 9 p.m. at the Music Museum. For tickets, call Ticketworld (891-5610), Artist House (815-1953) and Music Museum (721-0635 or 721-6726).

Atbp

The CFC-School of the Morning Star invites all teachers, parents and other people working with young children to its seminar, **From Trash to Treasure** on Oct. 13, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at No. 16 Cabanatuan St., Philam Homes, QC. For inquiries, call 415-1549.

expo6, a trade fair and investment showcase featuring products, tourism destinations and investment opportunities in Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo and Negros Occidental from Oct. 10-14 at the SM Megatrade Hall, Mandaluyong City.

Join Viscomm's last quarter art workshop, **Art Strokes**—painting lessons on charcoal, pastel, watercolor and oil. Also, World of Words, a creative writing workshop for children and adults. For details, call 740-7221.

The Animal Products Development Center of the Bureau of Animal Industry will hold a two-day training course on meat processing for prospective entrepreneurs on Oct. 9-10 at the APDC-BAI Compound, Marulas, Valenzuela City. There will be a lecture-demonstration session on processing Quick Cured Ham, Bacon, *Tocino,* Skinless *Longanisa,* Corned Beef, Hamburger, Fresh Native Sausage, *Embutido* and *Siomai.* For details, call 293-8402 and 291-6834.

Computer Assembly Workshop, a seminar on assembling your own computer, installing software and troubleshooting, Oct. 13, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Earthlite, 4/F COD Dept. Store Bldg., Cubao, QC. For details, call 417-1521.

The2nd Pilar Perez Medallion for Young Adult Literature is now accepting entries. The Medallion is awarded to the best piece of short fiction for teens, written in English or Filipino. Deadline is Jan. 21, 2002. For details, call 892-1801 or email events@fillib.org.ph.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines Literature Division is accepting**new works for Ani 28** on gender and creativity. Poems and prose in Filipino, English and other languages (with translation or, for long works, a summary in Filipino or English) must be accompanied with the author's 3-4 sentence biodata and tax identification number. Deadline for submission is Nov. 27. Contributions may be sent by email to cecs@culturalcenter.gov.ph. Manuscripts sent by mail must be accompanied with a diskette containing the file in Microsoft Word format and a return self-addressed stamped envelope and addressed to Herminio S. Beltran Jr., Ani Editor, Literature Division, 4/F Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc. will hold**basic and advanced photography courses** starting on Nov. 4. The course details step-by-step procedures in taking good pictures including the technology, composition and lighting basics. For details, call 813-7420 and 843-5341.

Calling all native sons of Daet, Camarines Norte. A special get-together by way of a**testimonial dinner** organized by Daet Mayor Tito S. Sarion will take place on Oct. 8 at the Skytop of Hotel Inter-Continental Manila. The event aims to elicit support for various tourism and livelihood projects of the municipality. Those who wish to attend the dinner may call 815-9711.

Let's Go Lead, an innovative leadership seminar series conducted by well-known celebrities who are experts in their field. It provides learning on values and skills for effective leadership. Next session will be on Resource Planning through Integrity, Credibility, Communication and Negotiation, Oct. 12, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the St. La Salle Hall, DLSU-PSI 5/F Tower 2, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. For inquiries, call 839-0184 to 86.

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Pasay-Parañaque-Las Piñas and Muntinlupa Chapter is sponsoring a **Bench-Bar-Dialogue/Continuing Legal Education Program** on Oct. 12, 1 p.m. at the Heritage Hotel, Pasay City. The activity will be highlighted by the following lectures: Amendments to the Rules on Civil and Criminal Procedure (by Justice Jose Y. Feria) and E-Commerce Law/Rules on Electronic Evidence (by Atty. Jesus M. Disini, Jr.). For inquiries, call Atty. Patricia A. O. Bunye at 8189836-39 or the IBP-PPLM Chapter Office at 831-1477.

The Nature Awareness and Conservation Club Inc. will hold the following **nature adventure tours:** Gulugod Baboy Fun Climb (Oct. 13-14)—sleep on the campsite and snorkle at Anilao beach in the morning; Boracay October Feast (Oct. 31-Nov. 3); Mt. Makiling Fun Hike (Nov. 17); Mt. Pulag Fun Climb (Nov. 30-Dec. 2); Sagada Nature and Heritage Tour (Dec. 26–30). For inquiries, call 8061720 or 09195785984.

The Model School Inc. will hold a **modeling workshop** on October and November. For inquiries, call Jing at 932-9724 or Mabelle at 427-5489. You can text your name and contact number at 0917-4368987. For Laguna residents, call Lizl at 778-9873 or 0917-4219478.

Applications for the **2002 Wesleyan Freeman Asian Scholarship** are now available at the Human Resources Department, Philam Insurance Bldg., 100 Carlos Palanca Jr. cor de la Rosa Sts., Legaspi Village, Makati. For information about the scholarship program, contact Wesleyan alumnae Apple Melgazo '99 (27753@edsamail.com.ph or 0919-357-3201), Mylee Ejercito '99 (rejercito@wesleyan.edu), Jocy So '00 (jso@wesleyan.edu or 082-234-3236) or Massie K. Santos '00 (massie@massie.com). To register for the required SAT I and TOEFL exams, call the HS Guidance Office of the International School Manila at 896-9801. All application forms must be postmarked not later than Dec. 31, 2001 and should be sent directly to Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut.

Chinese Martial Arts, an introductory course (with lecture and hands-on training) on the traditional Chinese approach to self-defense. Registration is ongoing. Limited slots only. Beginner Level I starts on Oct. 20. For details, call Erwin at 0917-9682937.

The Management and Organizational Development for Empowerment Inc. recently launched a book on official development aid called**Lessons in ODA Theory and Practice.** This publication presents a critical analysis of select ODA-funded rural development projects, portions of which can be viewed at www.mode.org. For inquiries, call 435-3652 loc. 14.

The Philippine Dental Association-Parañaque Chapter will hold its third scientific seminar **The Magical Aspect of Aesthetics** today at Skyline Asian Center at Filinvest Corporate Center in Alabang from 1-5 p.m.

X-manila

Sanggol, a traveling exhibit presented by the Metropolitan Museum of Manila of 40 black and white photographs and drawings of babies at the Museo De La Salle, Dasmariñas, Cavite until Dec. 10.

St. Scholastica's Center of Spirituality in Tagaytay City offers**weekend retreats for women.** Schedules are as follows: Death After A Time of Illness: Grieving the Loss of A Loved One (Oct. 12-14); River of Life (Oct. 19-21); Women and Spirituality (Nov. 16-18); Prayerways in Daily Life and Ministry (Nov. 23-25); The Midlife Challenge (Jan. 11-13, 2002); Reverence: A Way of Being in the World: A Benedictine Spirituality for Lay Women (Jan. 25-27). For details, call (046) 413-1535 or email sscs@edsamail.com.ph.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.